

Hollande: Tax Agreement Very Important

A. CHARLTON

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — It's time to make Google, Apple and other multinational companies pay more taxes. That's the message President Barack Obama and the leaders of the world's leading economies sent to cross-border giants at a summit ending Friday.



French President Francois Hollande arrives for a media conference after a G-20 summit in St. Petersburg, Russia on Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. Hollande called the new tax deal "perhaps the most important" agreement reached at this year's G-20 summit.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

The new rules on taxes would make it harder for companies to hide profits in tax havens and force them to pay tax in the countries where they make money. The G-20 leaders also agreed to an unprecedented deal to share information on individual taxpayers, despite earlier resistance by China. Low tax payments by major global companies such as Google or Amazon have sparked public anger in Europe as countries struggle out of recession.

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House Republicans: Constituents opposed to strike

People gather to demonstrate in front of Richland City Hall in Richland, Wash., in opposition to proposed U.S. military action in Syria. The Protesters also encouraged people to contact their representatives if they oppose military action.

(AP Photo/Tri-City Herald, Kai-Huei Yau)

JOHN HARWOOD

JONATHAN WEISMAN

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MIDWEST CITY, Okla. - Rep.

Tom Cole started hearing it in the morning when he went to grab coffee.

"I was just at Starbucks, and a woman there recognized me," the six-term Republican House member told a Chamber of Commerce gathering here. "She said, 'Everybody here's a no on Syria.'"

Cole would seem a potential candidate to support President Barack Obama on Syria. A pragmatic congressional veteran, he has

been open to compromise with the White House in the past and is not afraid to break with House conservatives. But after portraying himself as leaning against the strike, Cole on Thursday afternoon came down firmly in the opposition when his office issued a statement announcing that he will vote no.

Given the intensity of opposition in his district, he said it would take a "road to Damascus experience" to change his mind now.

"I literally cannot walk across the parking lot without being stopped to talk

about this issue," he said. "I haven't seen anything quite like this."

He is hardly alone. Fewer than a dozen House Republicans, a total that includes the top two leaders, have publicly said they would back the president on a military strike, making the White House climb to a House majority exceedingly steep given significant Democratic resistance as well. Not only is the administration not winning over Republicans, it lost at least one it had. Rep. Michael G. Grimm, R-N.Y., said Thursday that he was reversing

his support.

"The moment to show our strength has passed," he said.

Cole's constituent experience is not isolated. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, a Republican swept into power in 2010 in military-focused South Carolina on a platform of small government, said that in his three-plus years in Congress, no issue had elicited as passionate a response as Syria. And, he added, "to say it's 99 percent against would be overstating the support."

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Caribbean's water supply under threat

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Experts are sounding a new alarm about the effects of climate change for parts of the Caribbean — the depletion of already strained drinking water throughout much of the region.

Rising sea levels could contaminate supplies of fresh water and changing climate patterns could result in less rain to supply reservoirs in the coming decades, scientists and officials warned at a conference in St. Lucia this week. "Inaction is not an option,"

climate change effects, said Jason Johnson, vice president of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, a Trinidad-based nonprofit group. "That's the greatest concern," he said. "Those weather patterns may change, and there may not necessarily be the means for those water supplies to be replenished at the pace that they have historically been replenished."

Parts of the Caribbean have been experiencing an unusually dry spell that emerged last year. In August 2012, some is-

but that doesn't mean an increase in fresh water supply, said Bernard Ettinoffe, president of the Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association Inc., a St. Lucia-based group that represents water utilities in the region.

Heavy rains mean there's not enough time for water to soak into the ground as it quickly runs off, he said. In addition, the cost of water treatment increases, and many islands instead shut their systems to prevent contamination.

The island considered most at risk is Barbados, which ranks 21st out of 168 coun-



Vendors Jacline Bienheme, left, and Marie Jolerme wait for fishermen to return on the shores of Lake Azuel in Thomazeau, Haiti. Experts are sounding a new alarm about the effects of climate change for parts of the Caribbean: the depletion of already strained drinking water throughout much of the region.

(Associated Press)

said Lystra Fletcher-Paul, Caribbean land and water officer for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. "The water resources will not be available."

Some of the possible solutions include limits on development, increased use of desalination plants and better management of existing water supplies, but all face challenges in a region where many governments carry heavy debts and have few new sources of revenue.

Many Caribbean nations rely exclusively on underground water for their needs, a vulnerable source that would be hit hard by

lands reported extremely dry weather, including Grenada and Anguilla. By July of this year, those conditions had spread to Trinidad, Antigua, St. Vincent and Barbados, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology says.

"We're seeing changes in weather patterns," said Avril Alexander, Caribbean coordinator for the nonprofit Global Water Partnership. "... When you look at the projected impact of climate change, a lot of the impact is going to be felt through water."

Intense rains have been reported in recent months in some Caribbean areas,

tries in terms of water demand exceeding available surface water supplies, according to a 2012 study by British risk analysis firm Maplecroft. Other Caribbean islands high on the list are Cuba and the Dominican Republic, which ranked 45 and 48, respectively. The study did not provide data on a smattering of eastern Caribbean islands that officials say are among the driest in the region.

Van Meerbeeck said water supplies will continue to decrease if individuals as well as agriculture and tourism, the region's key industries, do not monitor use. □

US exempts EU nations

MARJORIE OLSTER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. said Friday it was granting 6-month sanctions exemptions to 10 European countries so they can restart imports of Iranian crude oil after a year's hiatus.

Japan received a similar exemption after the U.S. said it had significantly reduced its oil imports from Iran — the main condition for such waivers.

American sanctions are designed to pressure Iran to curb its nuclear program, which Washington suspects is aimed at producing weapons. Iran has repeatedly insisted it is only for generating electricity and medical research.

The most ambitious U.S. tactic has involved pressuring countries around the world to cut commercial ties with Iran or face a series of restrictions on what type of business they can conduct in the United States, the world's largest market. But the Obama administration has been granting exemptions to a number of mostly Asian countries that rely on Iranian oil on condition that they significantly reduce their imports over time.

The entire European Union has not purchased Iranian oil since July 1, 2012, the U.S. State Department said in a statement. Because of that reduction, the U.S. said 10 EU countries had qualified for 6-month sanctions exemptions: Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Britain.

The State Department said a total of 20 countries have continued to significantly reduce their crude oil purchases from Iran. China remains Iran's top trading partner and its No. 1 client for oil exports, with Japan, India and South Korea among other top purchasers.

Despite plummeting sales overseas, Iran remains one of the world's largest oil producers. Its exports bring in tens of billions of dollars in revenue for the country's hard-line leaders, money

the U.S. is trying to cut off.

A senior U.S. official told The Associated Press last week that sanctions have reduced Iranian oil exports by 58 percent since late 2011. He also said the U.S. has concluded that nearly half of Iran's monthly earnings from crude oil exports are accumulating in accounts overseas because of sanctions that restrict Tehran's access to the money.

But economists said Iran is also finding ways to work around sanctions, for example by increasing exports of non-oil, non-sanctioned goods.

The news of the European exemptions came as successful legal challenges to European sanctions on Iran mounted.

Just hours before the exemptions notice came out, an EU court said it would throw out penalties imposed on eight Iranian banks and businesses for their alleged ties to Iran's nuclear program because there wasn't sufficient evidence to justify the sanctions imposed by the bloc. The U.S. was disappointed with the ruling.

"The evidence linking these banks to Iran's illicit nuclear activities is clear and strong, and no financial institution anywhere should allow these Iranian banks to transact with them," the Treasury said in a statement.

In other developments, the Treasury said earlier Friday that it was expanding sanctions to target a network allegedly helping the government evade measures aimed at curbing oil exports. The U.S. accused Iran of using front companies, financial institutions and businessmen "willing to engage in deceptive transactions to conceal the direct involvement" of the Tehran government in global oil transactions.

The U.S. says the new sanctions target the network of Seyed Seyyedi, an Iranian businessman and director of Sima General Trading, as well as a network of companies based in the United Arab Emirates that Seyyedi allegedly controls. □

G20 chiefs push big companies to pay more taxes

Continued from front

The G-20 countries said in a communique Friday that they will aim to set up a system so that profits would be taxed "where economic activities deriving the profits are performed and where value is created."

The leaders also said that they expect to begin exchanging information automatically on tax matters among G-20 members by the end of 2015.

But leaders may face political battles at home in getting the new tax treaties and laws in place. Advocacy groups say that poorer countries should also be involved, so that the world's neediest also benefit from more government tax dollars. French President Francois Hollande called the deal "perhaps the most important" agreement reached at this year's G-20 summit.

OECD chief Angel Gurría told The Associated Press on Friday that it's crucial that Internet giants like Google and Facebook are covered by the new rules. "You've got to get the big guys to make a contribution," Gurría said. Otherwise, he said, "What are the treasurers, the ministers of finance left with? Medium and small-scale enterprises, the middle class to tax?" The OECD is designing the new global tax rules and has come under fire from cross-border corporations that say they're being unfairly targeted. But OECD officials say some companies are starting to recognize that their moves to register in low-tax jurisdictions such as Luxembourg or the Cayman Islands are causing public pain. Gurría, speaking in an interview with the AP, insisted that the tax plan isn't anti-business.

"We don't want to discourage companies from creating jobs. But we obviously don't want to encourage companies to take away the profits and squirrel them away and not share them with anybody else," he said. □

Obama concedes 'hard sell' at G20 on Syria strike



Russia's President Vladimir Putin gestures as he walks by U.S. President Barack Obama as he takes his place at a group photo outside of the Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia on Friday, Sept. 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

PETER BAKER
STEVEN LEE MYERS
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STRELENA, Russia - President Barack Obama ran into an impasse Friday in his bid to rally international backing for a military strike on Syria as world leaders wrapped up a summit meeting here remaining deeply divided over the right response to what the Americans have called the deadliest nerve gas attack in decades. After a dinner debate that lasted into the early morning hours of Friday, Obama emerged with a few supporters but no consensus as other leaders urged him not to attack without U.N. permission, which is not forthcoming. Instead, the president had to resign himself to generalized statements of concern over the use of chemical weapons. Even France, which has offered the strongest support to Obama of the European allies, on Friday said that it would not strike Syria as part of a coalition until the United Nations completes its work on assessing the suspected use of chemical weapons in Syria. Ban Ki-moon, the U.N. secretary-general, has declined to specify when the results will be known.

The failure to forge a stronger coalition here in the face of opposition from the Russian host, President Vladimir Putin, raised the risks even further for Obama as he headed home to lobby Congress to give him the backing his

international peers would not.

It also left Obama in the awkward position of defending his right to take

action largely alone if necessary after campaigning against what he portrayed as the unilateralist foreign policy of his predecessor,

George W. Bush.

Obama acknowledged that he had a "hard sell" with Congress and announced that he would deliver a televised address to the nation Tuesday evening from the White House. "Failing to respond to this breach of this international norm would send a signal to rogue nations, authoritarian regimes and terrorist organizations that they can use WMD and not pay a consequence," he said at a news conference, using initials for weapons of mass destruction.

"And that's not a world we want to live in." But much of the world, at least as represented at the Group of 20 meeting here in this St. Petersburg suburb, did not favor Obama's proposed course of action. □

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House Republicans: Constituents opposed to strike

Continued from front

Of the 1,000 or so calls and emails he has received, three supported some kind of response. And two-thirds of the correspondents have never reached out to him before.

Rep. Candice S. Miller, R-Mich., said she was at a peach festival parade last weekend in her district, an event that does not typically draw the type of constituent who is overly political. But as she made her way down the parade route, one person after another urged her to vote no on any authorization of force in Syria.

"It was not a political event at all," Miller said. "But there were a lot of people, older veterans especially in their hats, all saying, 'No on Syria!'"

In the face of such overwhelming constituent opposition, congressional Republican leaders are treading extremely lightly.

Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., the House majority leader, has come out strongly for military intervention in Syria, but in a one-on-one conversation with Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, he did not press the point, Chaffetz said.

In Cole's case, speaker after speaker at an evening town hall-style meeting questioned Obama's assertion that he has constitutional authority to strike on his own - and insisted that Congress not give him authority. "Where does he get this - a Cracker Jack box?" asked Steve Byas, who teaches government at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Okla. Criticizing Obama's "red line," Byas added, "Just because the president made a statement he should not have made should not bind the Congress to go ahead and approve this."

The applause Byas received from the crowd of 150 people mirrored the

flow of telephone calls Cole's office aides have fielded. "Not one" in favor of striking Syria, he said.

The majority of people Cole represents in this southwest Oklahoma district rarely support Obama on much of anything; two-thirds of voters here backed the Republican presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, in November.

Cole, chief of staff at the Republican National Committee before winning his House seat, has occasionally raised the ire of more aggressive Tea Party-style conservatives. One activist in the back of his town hall handed out fliers casting him as disloyal to the Republican cause.

He predicted the Democratic-controlled Senate would back the president. Obama has "a good chance" of prevailing in the House with the support of Republican and Democratic leaders, Cole said, but it is no sure thing.



U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, R-Oklahoma, bows his head at the start of a town hall meeting in Duncan, Okla. Cole has come down firmly in opposition to a US strike on Syria based on the overwhelming opinion of his constituents.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

"If I break with my district, I better have an awfully compelling reason," Cole said. "I'm going to listen

to that kind of expert opinion. But I'm sure going to listen to opinion at the Starbucks." □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Chinese ships visit Hawaii for exercises with US

AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)

— Three Chinese ships carrying hundreds of sailors arrived in Hawaii on Friday to join a search-and-rescue exercise with the U.S. Navy during a rare visit intended to foster familiarity.

The guided missile destroyer Qingdao, a frigate and a supply ship were welcomed with performances by lion dancers and a children's hula group.

The ships carrying 680 officers and sailors will participate in the exercise on Monday with the USS Lake Erie in waters off Waikiki and Diamond Head.

The exercise is an important way for the two navies to share information about operations so they don't misinterpret movements and potentially start a conflict,

said Brad Glosserman, executive director of Pacific Forum at the Center for



A children's hula group performs on the pier in front of the Chinese guided missile destroyer Qingdao after three Chinese naval ships arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. Three ships are to participate in a search-and-rescue exercise with the U.S. Navy.

(AP Photo/Audrey McAvoY)

Strategic and International Studies.

"There are lots of places where our vessels could

end up in proximity, and we want to make very sure that when that happens we have the best possible

understanding of what the other side is doing and why," he said.

The visit comes as Bei-

jing continues to be wary about Washington's strategic "rebalance" toward Asia, in which the Navy is basing a majority of its ships in the Pacific and the U.S. is boosting ties with longtime allies such as Australia and Japan.

China sees the moves as an effort to counter its expanding military and contain its growing economic and political influence.

Chinese ships last visited the U.S. in 2006, when the Qingdao and the Hongze-hu stopped in Pearl Harbor and San Diego for communications drills and search and rescue exercises off those coasts.

The two nations last held a joint drill in 2012 during an anti-piracy exercise off Somalia.

China's military has said the drills build on a June commitment by President Barack Obama and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to strengthen ties. □



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DETROIT (AP) — The United Auto Workers union confirmed Friday that it's in talks with Volkswagen about representing workers at a factory in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The union said its representatives met with VW officials last week in Wolfsburg, Germany, to discuss a German-style "works council" at the plant as well as full UAW representation. A works council would give workers a say in plant operations. Currently, only one U.S. plant owned by foreign automakers has UAW representation, a Mitsubishi factory in Normal, Illinois, with about 1,000 workers. The union has been trying for years to organize other plants, which mainly are in southern states. The prospect of UAW representation in Chattanooga concerns Southern Republicans, who fear a UAW foothold in the region will allow it to recruit workers at other auto plants. Volkswagen managers told workers about the talks in a letter on Thursday. Any union representation would require a vote of the plant's roughly 2,000 full-time blue-collar workers who make the VW Passat midsize sedan.

Jonathan Browning, Volkswagen's Americas CEO, said Wednesday that labor questions will be left to plant workers. "It may or may not result in third-party representation," he said. In its statement, the UAW said VW has experience with union representation. "The UAW believes the role of a union in the 21st Century is to create an environment where both the company and workers succeed," the statement said. □

DAN JOLING
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Critics of offshore Arctic drilling say \$1.1 million in fines levied against Royal

finer are part of learning how to operate complex equipment in a harsh environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday that

worked in the Chukchi Sea and the Kulluk drilled in the Beaufort Sea for nearly two months starting in September 2012.

The EPA recorded 23 vio-



This aerial photo shows the Shell floating drill rig Kulluk in Kodiak Island's Kiliuda Bay in January, 2013, as salvage teams conducted an in-depth assessment of its seaworthiness. The Kulluk had run aground on Sitkalidak Island near Kodiak a week earlier.

(AP Photo/James Brooks)

Dutch Shell for air pollution violations show that the petroleum giant is not ready to safely drill off Alaska's northern coast.

A Shell spokesman says the

Shell subsidiaries agreed to pay fines as part of a settlement for air quality violations last year from two drill vessels or their support fleet. The Noble Discoverer

lations connected to the Noble Discoverer, a 571-foot (174-meter) drill ship, and assessed \$710,000 in penalties.

The agency noted 11 vio-

Ohio kidnapper said police missed chance in 2004

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A man who held three women for a decade in his Cleveland home said authorities missed an opportunity to catch him in 2004, because his picture should have been captured by a school security camera minutes before he abducted one of his victims, according to interrogation videotapes that became public Friday. The tapes emerged three days after Ariel Castro, 53,

hanged himself in his prison cell one month into his life sentence. A funeral home picked up his body Friday from a coroner's office on behalf of Castro's family. The kidnapping and repeated rapes of three young women over about a decade shocked Americans when the women escaped from Castro's home in May. In the video, deceased kidnapper Castro says cameras outside Gina DeJesus' school should have captured him there

15 minutes before the then-14-year-old girl was abducted. "You could have broke the case right then and there," Castro told police during a recorded interview that was obtained by NBC and first reported Friday on the "Today" show. Cleveland police did not respond to requests for comment regarding Castro's claim that there was a missed opportunity to catch him after DeJesus disappeared.

The recording shows the

former school-bus driver eating a slice of pizza and later pacing the room during a reportedly four-hour interrogation in which he told police he had used victim Amanda Berry's cell phone to call her mother and say she was alive.

"I think I said something ... that I have her daughter and that she's OK, and that she's my wife now — something like that, you know, probably not the exact words," he told investigators. □



US Financial Front: Why fewer working-age Americans are working

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The drop in the unemployment rate in August to a 4½-year low was hardly cause for celebration. The rate fell because more people stopped looking for work. More than 300,000 people were no longer working or looking for a job. Their exodus shrank the so-called labor force participation rate — the percentage of adult Americans with a job or seeking one — to 63.2 percent. It's the lowest participation rate since August 1978.

Once people without a job stop looking for one, the government no longer counts them as unemployed. That's why the unemployment rate dropped to 7.3 percent in August from 7.4 percent in July even though 115,000 fewer people said they had jobs. If those who left the labor force last month had still been looking for work, the unemployment rate would have risen to 7.5 percent in August.

"Pretty disappointing," said Beth Ann Bovino, U.S. chief economist at Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. "You saw more people leave the job market and fewer people get jobs. Not

a good sign."

Back in 2000, the participation rate hit a high of 67 percent. At the time, women were pouring into the labor force. But women's participation fell modestly through the mid-2000s — then dropped sharply from late 2009 through 2013. Women's participation rate was 57 percent last month, down from a peak of 60 percent in 2000.

For men, the participation rate fell last month to just below 70 percent — its lowest point on records dating to 1948. Men's participation peaked in 1949 at 87 percent and has declined gradually in the decades since.

In a 2011 report, the Congressional Budget Office noted that the recent drop in women's participation was particularly steep among those with dependent children and well-educated women married to high-earning men.

Another factor in the declining participation is that the oldest baby boomers have reached retirement age.

But Craig Alexander, chief economist at TD Bank Group, says "demographics cannot explain the amount of decline" in labor force participation. □



Applicants reach for registration forms to attend a combined Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Harlem Week job and career fair at Columbia University in New York. The drop in the unemployment rate in August to a 4½-year low was hardly cause for celebration. The rate fell because more people stopped looking for work.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)



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US orders diplomats out of Lebanon amid fears

RYAN LUCAS
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The State Department ordered all nonessential U.S. personnel Friday to leave Lebanon, reflecting fears that an American-led strike on neighboring Syria would unleash more bloodshed in this already fragile nation. The Lebanese government's top security body held an emergency meeting and the Shiite militant group Hezbollah put its fighters on high alert. Lebanon and Syria share a complicated history and a web of political and sectarian ties and rivalries. The uprising against President Bashar Assad has intensified divisions among Lebanese religious groups as well as polarization among those who support him and those backing the rebels fighting to topple him. Lebanon has become completely consumed by the civil war next door. Car bombings, rockets, kidnappings and sectarian clashes — all related to the conflict — have become increasingly common in recent months.

Hezbollah, a staunch ally of the Syrian regime, has sent its fighters to back Assad's forces against the rebels and the militant group's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, has suggested he would do everything it takes to save the regime. Adding to the jitters, the U.S. said it had instructed its nonessential staff to leave Beirut and urged private American citizens to get out of Lebanon. The step had been under consideration since last week, when President Barack Obama said he was contemplating military action against the Syrian government for its alleged

chemical weapons attack last month that killed hundreds near Damascus. "Lebanese government authorities are not able to guarantee protection for citizens or visitors to the country should violence erupt suddenly. Access to borders, airports,

those two countries. Both have been the subject of long-standing travel warnings. About 150 people from several pro-Syrian political groups gathered for a peaceful protest near the U.S. Embassy compound north of Beirut, pledging

the potential for a surge in violence in case of military action, not just in Lebanon but across the region. Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Iraq threatened to retaliate against Washington's interests inside Iraq if the U.S. goes ahead with strikes against Syria, ac-



A Lebanese pro-Syrian regime supporter holds a placard with Arabic that reads, "the Zionist-American project shall fail," during a demonstration against a possible military strike in Syria, near the U.S. Embassy in Awkar, east of Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. The prospect of a U.S.-led strike against Syria has raised concerns of potential retaliation from the Assad regime or its allies. The State Department ordered nonessential U.S. diplomats to leave Lebanon over security concerns and urged private American citizens to depart as well.

roads, and seaports can be interrupted with little or no warning," a State Department statement said. In a separate advisory for Turkey, the State Department announced it would allow personnel at the Adana consulate — the closest diplomatic post to Syria — to leave their posts. It recommended that U.S. citizens defer nonessential travel to southeastern Turkey. The department also renewed its travel warnings for Iraq and Pakistan, advising Americans of continuing security concerns in

larger rallies in case of a U.S. attack in Syria. Some of them had painted their hands red, symbolizing blood. "The American Embassy is an operations room for the war on Syria," read one banner. "Your rockets and fleets do not scare us," read another. Dozens of riot police in full gear stood on guard, confining the protesters to a square on a road leading to the heavily fortified embassy in the suburb of Awkar. The small protest reflected

cording to Iraqi security officials and militants themselves. Cleric Wathiq al-Batat, who leads the Mukhtar Army, a shadowy Iranian-backed militia in Iraq, said his forces are preparing for a strong reaction against the interests of the U.S. and other countries that take part in any Syria strike. He claimed that militants have selected hundreds of potential targets, which could include both official American sites and companies "associated with the Americans." □

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

Egypt: New rights worries over arrests

MARIAM RIZK
TONY G. GABRIEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The detentions of an Egyptian labor lawyer and a journalist raised concerns among rights activists Friday that the military-backed government's crackdown on Islamists is expanding to silence other critics of its policies. Authorities have been carrying out a wave of arrests for weeks against Islamist backers of ousted President Mohammed Morsi, who was removed in a July 3 coup. Still, his supporters have pushed ahead with protests organized by his Muslim Brotherhood denouncing the military and demanding Morsi's return to office. In the latest rallies, thousands flowed from mosques Friday, chanting "down with military rule" and waving Egyptian flags. Authorities have depicted the crackdown against Islamists as part of a "fight against terror."

At least 2,000 Brotherhood members have been arrested, most on allegations of inciting violence. A low-intensity militant insurgency has hit the Sinai peninsula and other areas in the south, where Islamist radicals have a strong base. A failed attempt to assassinate the interior minister Thursday with a car bomb has raised fears of an escalating Islamic militant campaign of revenge over the coup. Along with the arrests, there has also been a heavy blanket of intimidation against criticism from within the non-Islamist camp against the military's actions. □



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Iran's FM confirms he sent Rosh Hashana tweet

NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's foreign minister says he sent a message on Twitter saying "Happy Rosh Hashana," a local news website reported, in what is likely a small diplomatic step toward easing the hostilities between his nation and Israel. Mohammad Javad Zarif told tasnimnews.com in an article published late Thursday night that he sent the message because Iran has a small Jewish community. But the message comes as Israel and Iran view each other with suspicion and contempt over Iran's nuclear program and former hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's denials that the Holocaust took place.

A subsequent Zarif's tweet read: "Iran never denied it. The man who perceived to be denying it is now gone. Happy New Year." It came after an account attributed to Christine Pelosi, daughter of U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, replied to Zarif's Rosh Hashana tweet with: "The New Year would be even sweeter if you would end Iran's Holocaust denial, sir."

In an interview with the website, Zarif said Iran would not let Israel use the Holocaust "to cover up their crimes."

"We never were against Jews. We oppose Zionists who are a minority," the foreign minister was quoted as saying. "We have condemned killing of Jews by Nazis as we condemn (the) killing and crack-down on Palestinians by Zionists." The "Happy Rosh Hashana" message, celebrating the Jewish New Year, likely won't dramatically shift international relations between Iran and Israel. Iran does not recognize Israel and supports militant groups like Lebanese Hezbollah and Palestinian Hamas. The message does come, however, as President Hasan Rouhani, a moderate, slowly takes control of the country while trying to strike a more reconciliatory tone after Ahmadinejad's turbulent years in office. Ahmadinejad's anti-Israel remarks also prompted repeated international outcry — especially in the West. The West suspects Iran's nuclear program has a military dimension. □



Mohammad Javad Zarif, right, with Iranian President Hasan Rouhani in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, says he sent a message on Twitter saying "Happy Rosh Hashana," a local news website reported, in what is likely a small diplomatic step toward easing the hostilities between his nation and Israel. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

2 London tunnels, bridge closed after man's arrest

LONDON (AP) — British police have shut down two tunnels and a bridge at a river crossing on a major highway that serves London following the arrest of a pedestrian and the discovery of an unspecified suspicious item. Officials say the Dartford Crossing, just east of London, has been closed since roughly 4 p.m. (1500 GMT) Friday after a man was reported "behaving unusually" in the vicinity.

Kent Police, which is responsible for the area, said the man had been arrested and that a "suspicious item" had been recovered from the scene. Police offered no further details. The Dartford Crossing connects the north and south part of London's M25 ring road. The crossing handles approximately 140,000 vehicles and the closure has caused huge jams in both directions. □



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Tourism helps slow Greek recession in 2nd quarter

COSTAS KANTOURIS
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
 Associated Press
 ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

High tourism revenues helped Greece's battered economy shrink less than initially estimated in April-



A tourist couple take pictures in the old Anafiotika district under the Acropolis of Athens. Spending by tourists in Greece surged this summer, central bank data showed earlier this week, confirming forecasts that a record summer season could give the debt-laden country a welcome injection of foreign cash.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

June, making a projected exit from a six-year recession in 2014 more likely. The country's statistical authority said Friday that the second quarter contraction was 3.8 percent of gross domestic product year-on-year — considerably better than last month's flash estimate of 4.8 percent, and the lowest in three years. This provides a morale boost to the conservative-led government, which faces mass anti-austerity protests over the weekend as well as a grueling inspection by its international creditors later this month. Greece has received more than 200 billion euros (\$260 billion) in rescue loans over the past three years, in exchange for harsh income and welfare cuts that hurt the economy and pushed unemployment to record highs. But it is still unclear whether the country will be able to pay down its debt

after the bulk of the loans run out next summer, and potential new aid would probably come on condition of further austerity. Analyst Vangelis Agapitos warned that it is still too early to say whether the projected return to growth next year can be achieved, as the government elected in June 2012 is showing signs of reform fatigue. "The government must continue on the course it has followed over the past 14 months," Agapitos said. "The economy has to be fully turned round from a model based on domestic consumption and a big public sector to a more outward-looking and internationally competitive model." The statistical authority said Friday's GDP revision was based on data not available when the preliminary estimate was issued. These included a 5.3 per-

cent turnover increase in accommodation and food services in April-June — compared to a 21 percent fall a year earlier — and a strong improvement in the external trade deficit, largely attributed to lower demand for imported goods because of the recession. The revised GDP figures were chiefly helped by a boom in the key tourism industry, which accounts for more than 15 percent of the Greek economy and sustains about one in five jobs. Tourism officials expect a record 17 million arrivals this year — up from 16 million in 2012. Greece's conservative government has promised to balance its annual budget this year, continuing austerity measures including plans to launch a program for mass public sector firings this year. □

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Nigeria:

50 Islamic insurgents killed in army raid

HARUNA UMAR
 Associated Press
MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's military raided an Islamic insurgent camp and launched air and ground attacks over two days, killing about 50 sect members, a military official said Friday. This came as Nigerians mourned the death of nine people who died after Boko Haram staged a highway attack on Thursday at Bulabulin-Ngabura village, 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of Maiduguri, the birthplace of the Boko Haram insurgency. The military's newly formed 7th division, established to quell the insurgency in the northeast, participated

in the raid, spokesman Lt. Col. Sagir Musa said in Maiduguri. The attack on the camp also involved a military gunship as back up, he said. Military helicopters have been seen hovering in the skies near Maiduguri for the past two days. Musa said the counter-attack took place near Bulabulin-Ngaura and in Gajiram village, where 15 people were killed by suspected Boko Haram members who raided a local market Wednesday. "Troops pursued the terrorists to their camps and destroyed the camps with air support," he said. Residents in Bulabulin-Ngabura village said Boko

Haram members who staged the highway attack early Thursday also kidnapped a family of five who were traveling to their country home in Biu for the weekend. Cab driver Musa Lado told The Associated Press that dozens of insurgents staged the attack, which killed a Borno state government adviser. Another cab driver said "we could not move along the highway for several hours because of the attack. And by the time we were told the road was safe to continue our journey, we saw corpses of nine persons including that of an adviser in the Borno state government." □



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Australian government faces carbon tax backlash at poll

KRISTEN GELINEAU
ROD McGUIRK
Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — The ruling Labor Party's probable collapse in Australia's next election is largely the consequence of its qualified success in the last one

three years ago. To form the coalition she needed to stay in power, then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard reneged on a promise and agreed to place a carbon tax on major polluters. On Saturday, the bill for that bargain comes due.

Voters have never stopped hating the tax and its effect on their electric bills. Long-time Labor Party supporters — even people who have helped cut pollution by installing solar panels at home — have flocked to the opposition.

"Whoever gets rid of it will get my vote," said Mark Keene, a 54-year-old maintenance worker from Sydney who, for the first time in his life, won't be voting for Labor. Opposition leader Tony Abbott has declared the election a "referendum on the carbon tax" — a sure sign of confidence that most voters remain staunchly against it, with many believing that companies forced to pay the tax are simply passing the cost onto consumers.

Its unpopularity has already produced the downfall of Gillard, who lost her job to Kevin Rudd in a June vote of party lawmakers desperate to avoid a crushing election loss that could send them into the political wilderness for a decade.

But Labor candidates for Parliament continue to trail badly in opinion polls.

The tax on big polluters such as power plants and factories has been in place since July 2012. It started at 23 Australian dollars (\$21) per metric ton of carbon dioxide produced and has since risen to AU\$24.15 per metric ton. The government estimated the tax would cost the average person less than AU\$10 per week, but three months after it took effect, most Australians surveyed by policy think-tank Per Capita said it was costing them more than twice that much. But they also expressed confusion, with most blaming the tax for higher gas prices even though it is not levied on motor fuel purchases. The poll was a representative online survey of 1,422 people and has a 2.6 percent margin of error.

Lynne Chester, a Sydney University energy researcher, said that in Australia's most populous state, New South Wales, household

electricity prices have risen more than 110 percent from July 2007 to June 2013. But she said only about 9 percentage points of that increase is attributable to the carbon tax; increased charges for power transmission and distribution account for the rest.

Most Australians, but not the wealthy, get government compensation for higher electricity prices.

The carbon tax is one reason Sydney resident Geoff Hamment, who normally votes for Labor, is supporting the conservatives this time around. Hamment said he's seen his household electricity bills go "through the roof" since the tax was introduced.

"I don't like it," he said. "I think us paying so much is just pointless when you have countries like China churning it out." Hamment spent AU\$8,000 to install solar panels and a gas hot-water heater, and has trained his two children to turn the lights off whenever possible. □



Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, left, cooks sausages on a barbeque at The Entrance, Australia, Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. Australia's government faces a voter backlash against its carbon tax during elections on Saturday, with many Australians angered by rising electricity prices and confused by the greenhouse gas reduction strategy.

(AP Photo/Stefan Postles)

Haiti hosts conference with Venezuelan pact members

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Diplomats from more than a dozen countries began gathering in Haiti on Friday to work on creation of a new economic bloc based on the Venezuelan-led Petrocaribe accord. Leaders of the 18-nation group agreed in June to establish the trade group and details of how it would work remain sketchy, but Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said it would "go beyond the false concepts of free trade" to stimulate exchanges in transport, communications, tourism and trade.

The late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez oversaw the creation of Petrocaribe in 2005 with the aim of countering U.S. influence

and unifying the regional oil industry with Venezuela at the helm. It provides hundreds of millions of dollars each year in deeply discounted oil to its 18 members in the Caribbean and Central America. Petrocaribe aid is especially popular in impoverished Haiti, whose government depends heavily on foreign aid. Haitian officials favor the Venezuelan money because it goes straight into the state coffers, instead of into the hands of private contractors or relief groups. The Haitian government has used the money to repave roads and build silos to store food and construct bridges in the countryside, according to official records. □

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Syrian refugees:

Crossing deadly landscapes to reach havens in Lebanon

ANNE BARNARD

© 2013 New York Times

AYYAT, Lebanon - A family of nine crouched on a sunbaked plain here in the Bekaa Valley, the wind whipping the plastic awning that was their only shelter. The children's faces were smudged with dirt, the baby girl's pale pink patent-leather shoes caked with mud.

But the mother, Nasra Youssef Akkash, could not stop smiling. She and her children had finally reached Lebanon seven months after fleeing their bombed-out house in Aleppo, in northern Syria. Their zigzagging journey wound through Islamist-ruled rebel areas and towns wracked by fighting, finally taking them through the outskirts of Damascus, where people were seized with new fears of impending U.S. missile strikes. All along the way there was never enough food or decent shelter.

On Thursday, she told visitors that she and her family had slept peacefully for the first time in months after crossing the border Wednesday, finally free from the sounds of shelling - frightened only briefly by a barrage of wedding fireworks that sent them diving to the ground for cover. Even without blankets, they had barely noticed the chilly nighttime wind.

After holding out for 2 1/2 years of war, the Syrians entering Lebanon these days - part of a flood of 2 million refugees across the region - bring news of war and economic hardship across the country. As they flee Islamist extremist rule in the northern city of Raqqa, government and rebel

shelling around Damascus, food shortages and criminal gangs, they say they see the threat of a U.S. attack as just one more in a dizzying array of dangers.

"Obama will strike for the people," said Abdelkader, a municipal employee from Raqqa who supports

dles she could salvage, and the clothes on her children's backs, including the Smurfs and Sesame Street T-shirts, now faded, that her young boys still wear. Her husband had died earlier of a heart attack, so she relied on her grown sons for help and protection.

ing. And in recent days, people talked nonstop about new anxieties and questions over an impending U.S. attack.

"There is a lot of fear, an unusual amount of fear," Akkash said as she breast-fed her baby. "Fear that these strikes will include ev-

ing without authorization, and the Lebanese government has tightened entry rules for Syrians, leaving many trapped.

The family supported the government - one was a Baath Party member, and one had a tattoo of President Bashar Assad's brother Bassel on his chest - and declined to give their family names for fear of reprisals from rebels.

Their problems began early this year when Islamic rebel groups swept into Raqqa, they said. One relative, a soldier, was kidnapped and released after they paid \$1,000, they said. Abdelkader was briefly imprisoned, accused of being a pro-government militiaman. Ahmed, a teacher, said his school was ransacked. Ola, 17, said rebels took over her house; after long negotiations she was able to get back some of her possessions, including a refrigerator that was returned with bloodstains inside. But it was economic hardship that finally drove them out, they said. Salaries had been paid only sporadically since the rebel takeover, they said. They piled into a van and drove for a day and a night to the border. Along the way, they had to pass many checkpoints manned by both sides.

The family is Sunni Muslim like most of the rebels, but they object to the extremists ascendant in their hometown, and accused President Barack Obama of supporting them.

If America strikes Syria, Abdelkader said, "All the region will be burned."

Ahmed added, "Of course, the people will be burned first." □



Daif, 12, who arrived with her family on Wednesday from Raqqa, Syria, walks through a makeshift refugee settlement in Youneen, Lebanon, Sept. 5, 2013. After holding out for two and a half years of war, the Syrians entering Lebanon these days - part of a flood of 2 million refugees across the region - bring news of war and economic hardship across the country.

(Sam Tarling/The New York Times)

the government. "The regime also is fighting for the people, and the opposition is fighting for the people. And the people are damned."

He welcomed into a cramped box-shaped shelter more than a dozen members of his family who bribed their way across the border Thursday.

Akkash's journey began when she watched, from a few hundred yards away, as a projectile exploded her house - fired from a government warplane or a rebel mortar, she never knew.

She fled with the few bun-

First the family traveled to Tal Abyad, in the northern province of Raqqa. As Islamist groups affiliated with al-Qaida gained ascendancy and infighting spread between rebel groups and between Arabs and Kurds, the family backtracked, heading south toward Damascus, slipping from village to village. Humanitarian aid was spotty, Akkash said, with aid groups unable to access many of the areas they passed through.

Clashes between government and rebel fighters filled the nights with the thuds and crashes of shell-

everything and everyone."

"What will happen if they come?" she asked.

"World War III," said Husam Isber, 44, who had just arrived from the same area with his wife and four children.

Down the road in the town of Youneen, Abdelkader's family, from Raqqa, said they had managed to bribe officials on both sides of the border. Some family members had to make a risky trip to Aleppo to win special permission to leave.

The Syrian government has forbidden essential public-sector workers from leav-



Aruba Says “Masha Danki” to Group of Loyal Visitors

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring several very nice families whom are Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Goodwill Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home.

The honorees were John and Barbara Rebozo of Miranda, Caracas as Goodwill Ambassadors for 20 years, Freddy Jesus Irausquin of Miranda, Caracas as Goodwill Ambassador for 20 years, and Freddy and Dominga Irausquin of Miranda, Caracas as Goodwill Ambassadors for 20 years.

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Donkey Sanctuary in the clouds



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the swinging old lady, the Koningin Emma bridge. Yes, having fun is the name of the game.

You only need to send an sms message and who knows: you'll be saying cheers in Curaçao soon.

The more messages you send, the more chance you have to win. So send the word BURICO to number 250 and help the donkeys and the volunteers of the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary with your support. □

The Casino at the Radisson enjoys winners and new promotions

PALM BEACH - Francis Mooney staying at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort won \$1,000 at the Caribbean Stud Poker table, when he landed a Straight

Flush with the Buy Card, which delivered 2% of the Jackpot into his pocket while Maria Monaco from Venezuela, living on the island, won a \$4,000 jack-

pot with a Royal Flush on a Game Maker Machine. Orlando Vrolijk, Sales & Marketing Supervisor at the casino reports players have also been enchanted



with the new slot machines recently installed on the gaming floor, and have been testing their skills with the novel games.

Additionally due to repeated requests the casino is bringing the Spin To Win Slot Tournament back, every Wednesday night from 7pm - 9pm, with free entry and a re-buy fee of only \$10, available at the Casino Cage.

Players are requested to sign up by 6pm, at the Players Club desk.

The Spin To Win Tournament features cash prizes of \$500

for 1st place winner, \$300 for the 2nd place winner and \$100 for the 3rd place winner. Finalists #4 through #8 receive \$50 of Free Play each. The tournament will debut on the last Wednesday of September.

For players looking for more lucrative winning opportunities, the Bad Beat poker jackpot stands on: \$9,887.05; the Caribbean Stud Poker on: \$48,357.32, and the Bingo Progressive Jackpots on - incredible but true: \$38,479.55

Pictured here some lucky winners! □

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The Salamander Group bids farewell to Julie Saramiento



PALM BEACH - Members of the Salamander Group came together recently to bid Julie Partosemito good-bye, over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, at Taste of Belgium, Palm beach Plaza Mall. Julie worked for the Salamander Group for 14 years, and her fellow associates enjoyed a spontaneous trip down memory lane, telling anecdotes, recounting achievements and recalling great times, as both colleagues and

friends. Julie started working for the Salamander Group in November 1999 at The Coconut Trading Co., as a sales associate while still attending night school. Throughout the years she played an important role on the opening teams for many of the company stores which make up the successful Salamander Group, namely The Juggling Fish, The Lazy Lizard, T.H.Palm & Company and Caribbean Queen.



Julie reports she learned a lot during her stint with the company and perhaps one of the most important aspects of her work was the support of her



community. As member of the Salamander Group she helped give back to the community, through the company's corporate responsibility program, Tikkun Olam, the Repair of the World, in which the Salamander Group dedicates a percentage of its sales to charity. Julie explains "These 14 years, represent an important portion of my life and helped lay a strong ethical foundation for my career. Owner and Managing Director Jodi Tobman

played a considerable role in it, as a mentor, which I admire and respect. There are no words to describe the gratitude I feel for her. And I wish her continued success on her journey into the future." The Salamander Group management and employees really enjoyed working with Julie, and Tobman summed it all up, "I am excited to see how well Julie's new career path takes off and on behalf of all of us at the Salamander Group I can truly say she will be missed!" □

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Williams sets up meeting with Azarenka in final

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Serena Williams was cruising along in the U.S. Open semifinals, serving up another bagel, when, out of nowhere, a competitive tennis match broke out.

Didn't last long.

The defending champion won the first seven games of Friday's match, then actually fell down a break early in the second set, before quickly regaining it on the way to a 6-0, 6-3 victory over fifth-seeded Li Na. The day's only drama came in the second-to-last game — an affair that went eight deuces and lasted 13 minutes, 49 seconds. Li saved six match points, but it only delayed the inevitable. Williams dropped two points in the next game, but ended it and let out a long, celebratory scream after a 107 mph service winner.

"It got tough at the end. I got a little nervous, but I was able to close it out finally," Williams said.

The victory set up a rematch of last year's final against Victoria Azarenka, who beat 83rd-ranked Flavia Pennetta 6-4, 6-2 in the



Serena Williams serves against Li Na, of China, during the semifinals of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Friday, Sept. 6, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

earlier semifinal.

The first set of the Williams match marked the third straight set the No. 1 seed won at love, and when she held serve to open the second, she had won her 24th straight game of the tournament, dating to her match last Sunday against Sloane Stephens.

Nothing lasts forever, of course, though Williams is extending her string of dominance in the women's game deep into a second decade.

Sunday's match will mark her 21st Grand Slam final. She stands one win away from capturing her fifth U.S. Open title and 17th major trophy. This will be the first time the same two women have met in back-to-back finals at Flushing Meadows since it was Williams against her sister, Venus, in 2001-02. It will also mark the first 1 vs. 2 final at the U.S. Open since 2003, when No. 2 Justine Henin beat No. 1 Kim Clijsters.

Azarenka lost to Williams in a tense three-setter last year. But just last month, she beat Williams in a third-set tiebreaker in the final of a tune-up tournament in Cincinnati.

Continued on page 22



Usain Bolt from Jamaica, center, runs to win the men's 100 meters at the Diamond League Memorial Van Damme athletics event, at Brussels' King Baudouin stadium, on Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. At left is Justin Gatlin from the U.S., at right is James Dasaolu from Great Britain.

Associated Press

JOHN LEICESTER

AP Sports Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Usain Bolt closed out the 2013 season

on Friday with another win over 100 meters, clocking 9.80 at the Memorial Van Damme meet in Brussels.

Bolt closes out season with another victory

The time, sluggish by his stellar, world-record standards, confirmed what Bolt himself admits: 2013 has not been a vintage year for the world and Olympic champion.

The 27-year-old Jamaican said he is now looking forward to some rest and recreation, family time and football matches with friends, before deciding on his goals for 2014, a season with no major champion-

ships.

"I've been smiling ever since I got to the stadium, because I know it's the last one," Bolt said of his final race of 2013.

This year, Bolt's fastest time over 100 was 9.77, which he ran in winning the world championships in August. That was still the Jamaican's slowest season's best-time since 2010, when his fastest was 9.82.

Over 200 meters, Bolt's best

in 2013 was 19.66, again when collecting gold in Moscow. That makes 2013 his slowest season over that distance since 2007, when his best time was 19.75.

Still, with three golds from Moscow, including his 4x100 win with Jamaica, 2013 still goes down as the year he became the most decorated athlete in world championship history with a total now of eight gold and two silvers. □

Packers' plight in opener: Stop Kaepernick

The Associated Press

The Green Bay Packers defense spent a good chunk of the NFL offseason focused on working out how to stop the read option and defend mobile quarterbacks like San Francisco's Colin Kaepernick. Kaepernick left that much of a mark on the Packers' embarrassed unit in a 45-31 divisional playoff loss to the 49ers at Candlestick Park in January. Now they meet again on Sunday in a second straight season opener between a pair of NFC powers.

"I'm sure they've been game-planning for us since training camp," 49ers tight end Vernon Davis said. "Any time you lose a game like that, you should be very mad."

Kaepernick was a meteor bolting through a flimsy defense as he rushed for a quarterback-record 181 yards and two touchdowns and threw for two more touchdowns. The Packers have no choice but to be worried. They were embarrassed by the NFC champions in their opener last year at Lambeau Field, then again in the postseason. Packers defensive coordinator Dom Capers wants his guys to be aggressive and force the issue with Kaepernick and the versatile 49ers offense. That's not easy with Frank Gore at running back, Davis, and Anquan Boldin at wide receiver, all working with a stout line. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers actually is one of the better scrambling quarterbacks in the league, and no one throws on the run better, not even Kaepernick. He could keep off-balance a staunch 49ers defense led by linebackers Patrick Willis, NaVorro Bowman and Aldon Smith.

On Thursday in the season opener, Peyton Manning matched the NFL record

with seven touchdown passes in Denver's 49-27 home victory over Super Bowl champion Baltimore. On Sunday, New Orleans welcomes back coach Sean Payton, and everyone will see how much his presence means for the Saints.

New Orleans lost its first four games last season while Payton was suspended for the entire schedule due to the bounty scandal. He doesn't want his return to be the focus at the Superdome, especially with the division rival Atlanta Falcons and their equally prolific offense in town.

"I don't buy into the idea that, 'Well, now the head coach is back and they'll be back to contending right away.' There's no evidence of that," Payton said. Also back will be quarterback Robert Griffin III, from major knee surgery, running the read option when the Washington Redskins host the Philadelphia Eagles in a Monday doubleheader with Houston at San Diego.

New Eagles coach Chip Kelly's fast-paced, versatile offense will be trying to match points with RG3 and the Redskins.

The furor over Griffin's injury — and whether he should have been on the field in the playoff game against Seattle last January — was followed by daily, if not hourly, reports on his recovery.

"I feel very good where Robert's at," coach Mike Shanahan said.

Elsewhere on Sunday, it's Minnesota at Detroit, Tampa Bay at the New York Jets, Seattle at Carolina, Cincinnati at Chicago, New England at Buffalo, Oakland at Indianapolis, the New York Giants at Dallas, Tennessee at Pittsburgh, Kansas City at Jacksonville, Miami at Cleveland, and Arizona at St. Louis. □



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, left, throws a pass in front of teammate quarterback Colt McCoy, right, during warm ups before an NFL preseason football game against the San Diego Chargers, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, in San Diego.

Associated Press

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Cincinnati Reds' Todd Frazier rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run off St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Lance Lynn in the third inning of a baseball game, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

NL Capsules

Reds take 3 of 4 from slumping Cards

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Todd Frazier hit two homers, including the first of Cincinnati's three off Lance Lynn, and the Reds recovered from a 16-inning loss by overpowering the St. Louis Cardinals 6-2 on Thursday night, taking three of four in their final series of the season. Jay Bruce and Shin-Soo Choo also hit solo homers off Lynn (13-10), who lasted five innings and gave up three homers for only the second time in his career. Frazier also connected off Seth Maness for the third multihomer game of his career.

By winning their final series together, the Reds tightened the NL Central race

and ended the Cardinals' dominance. St. Louis had won the last seven series between them. Cincinnati's lone loss was 5-4 in 16 innings on Wednesday night. Left-hander Tony Cingrani (7-3) returned from a sore back and did a little bit of everything. He pitched into the sixth inning, gave up two runs, bunted for a hit, stole a base and scored. David Freese homered for the Cardinals, who have lost six of eight. With first-place Pittsburgh idle, the Cardinals slipped to 1½ games behind the Pirates while the Reds moved to 3 games out.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Paul Goldschmidt broke out of a slump with two hits and two RBIs, and Martin Prado and Aaron Hill also drove in runs to help Arizona beat San Francisco. Trevor Cahill (6-10) won his third straight decision since coming off the disabled list. He allowed two runs and six hits in five innings, walking four and striking out three. Brad Ziegler pitched the ninth for his eighth save. Pablo Sandoval had two hits and drove in a run for the Giants, who have lost three of four. Hector Sanchez also drove in a run and Brandon Belt had two hits. Ryan Vogelsong (3-5) gave up four runs and eight hits over 4 2-3 innings for the Giants. □

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AL Capsules

Red Sox edge Yankees in 10 innings, boost lead

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stephen Drew hit a tying single off Mariano Rivera with two outs in the ninth inning, then Shane Victorino lined a go-ahead single in the 10th that sent Boston past the Yankees 9-8 on Thursday night.

Down to their last strike against Rivera, the Red Sox rallied in the opener of a four-game series loaded with playoff implications. New York erased a 7-2 deficit with six runs in the seventh.

The Red Sox won for the 10th time in 12 games and the Yankees had their three-game winning stopped.

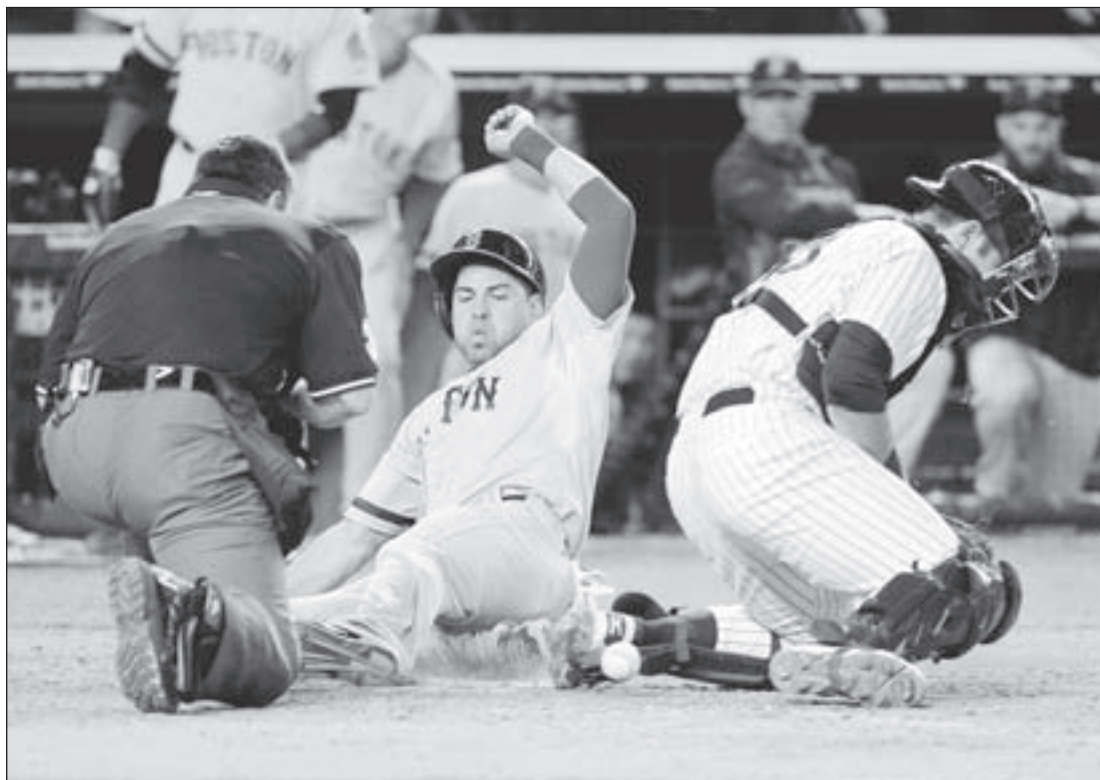
Jacoby Ellsbury singled with one out in the 10th off Joba Chamberlain (2-1) and stole second. Victorino held up on a half-swing,

umpire Joe West ruled, and lined a single that scored Ellsbury. Craig Breslow (5-2) got the win and Koji Uehara earned his 18th save, extending his scoreless streak to 26 innings over 23 games. Lyle Overbay's two-out, two-run single capped the in the seventh that put the Yankees ahead 8-7.

ASTROS 3, ATHLETICS 2
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jose Altuve had two hits and drove in a run to back a stellar outing by Brad Peacock and Houston knocked Oakland out of first place in the AL West.

Trevor Crowe singled, doubled and scored to help the Astros to their third win in the last four games against their division rivals. Oakland had won 11 of the first 12 meetings between the teams.

Peacock, part of the off-



Boston Red Sox's Jacoby Ellsbury scores the go-ahead run on a single by Shane Victorino as New York Yankees catcher Austin Romine, right, cannot handle the throw during the 10th inning of a baseball game Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, at Yankee Stadium in New York. Home Plate umpire Rob Drake is at left. The Red Sox defeated the Yankees 9-8.

Associated Press

Barquil wins 13th Vuelta stage, Nibali keeps lead

CASTELLDEFELS, Spain (AP)

— French cyclist Warren Barquil earned his first professional win in the 13th stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Friday, while Vincenzo Nibali kept the overall lead before the race enters three straight days in the mountains.

Barquil sprinted away from a small breakaway group over the final 200 hundred meters (yards) to claim the 169-kilometer (105-mile) ride from Valls to Castelldefels on the Mediterranean coast in 4 hours, 13 seconds.

Barquil is a former French junior champion and won the Tour de l'Avenir in 2012.

He dedicated the win to his recently deceased grandfather.

"I am very happy for this victory, this is my first as a professional," said Barquil, who rides for Argos-Shimano.

The hilly ride in the north-eastern region of Catalonia didn't alter the top of the overall classification.

Nibali maintained his 31-second lead over nearest chaser Nicolas Roche. Alejandro Valverde and Christopher Horner were tied for third overall at 46 seconds behind, while Joaquim Rodriguez was fifth at 2 minutes, 33 seconds off Nibali's pace.

Nibali, who is aiming to add to his Giro d'Italia win from earlier this summer, appeared to be almost fully recovered from a bee sting that had caused his face to swell.

On Saturday, the riders dispute the first of three stages in the Pyrenees with a 156-kilometer (97-mile) route starting at Baga and finishing in the principality of Andorra. The 14th stage features a special-category climb and ends with a first-category summit finish. Weather reports forecast the end to the sunny and warm conditions riders have enjoyed so far. A drop in temperature and



Warren Barguil, from France, celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 13th stage of the Spanish Vuelta, a 1649 km-kilometer (105 mile) ride starting in Valls and finishing in Castelldefels, Castelldefels, Spain, Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. The 21-stage race ends in Madrid on Sept. 15.

Associated Press

rain is expected in the mountains. The three-week grand tour finishes in Madrid on Sept. 15. □

season trade that sent infielder Jed Lowrie to the A's, carried a shutout into the eighth inning, finishing with nine strikeouts and one walk. Chris Carter, who was also included in the deal with Oakland, singled to drive in Houston's first run off Sonny Gray (2-3).

The A's went into the night tied with Texas for first place but couldn't get much going against Peacock (4-5). Josh Fields recorded the final four outs for his third save.

ANGELS 6, RAYS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Collin Cowgill hit a three-run double, one of 11 hits Los Angeles had against reigning AL Cy Young winner David Price through his first 2 1-3 innings, and Jerome Williams ended a streak of eight straight losing decisions for the Angels. □

Manning's 7 TDs lead Broncos past Ravens 49-27

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER (AP) — Denver quarterback Peyton Manning threw a record-tying seven touchdowns as the Broncos beat the Baltimore Ravens 49-27 in Thursday's NFL season-opening game.

Manning became the sixth man in NFL history to throw seven TD passes in a game and the first since Minnesota's Joe Kapp in 1969.

"I felt like we had to keep scoring because Baltimore can score at any time," said Manning, who was 27 of 42 for 462 yards with no interceptions for an off-the-charts quarterback rating of 141.1.

Connecting with his most prized addition, Wes Welker, former college basketball player Julius Thomas and Demaryius Thomas for two TDs each, Manning directed Denver to comfortable win over the reigning NFL champs.

"He's phenomenal. To



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) throws under pressure from Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Daryl Smith (51) during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, in Denver.

Associated Press

continue to come out every year and put that kind of performance on for us, it's amazing," Thomas said. Nobody had ever put up 49 points on the Ravens in their 18-year history.

Thursday's game was not just a season-opener but a chance for vengeance for the Broncos, having been knocked out of the playoffs — in double overtime — by Baltimore en route to its Super Bowl win.

Jacoby Jones, who was a Baltimore hero of that win over the Broncos in January — had his night cut short by a collision with a when he went back to field a punt and teammate.

The Broncos waited all off-season for the rematch, then for 33 minutes more when a lightning storm in the area delayed the start. Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco, armed with a new six-year, \$120.6 million contract, matched Manning score for score in the first half but had to play catch-

up after falling behind 35-17 early in the third quarter. He went 34 of 62 for 362 yards with two TDs and two interceptions.

It was such a runaway win that the Broncos were throwing away touchdowns by the end. Linebacker Danny Trevathan fumbled just shy of the goal line, losing control of the ball as he began a premature celebration.

Manning's seventh TD pass covered only a few yards in the air but Demaryius Thomas, a former first-round pick, hauled in the pass and turned on the jets, racing past several tired defenders for a 78-yard play that capped Denver's big night. "We gave them too many easy things," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "Even right down there at the end, fighting like crazy to create a play, and gave them that touchdown at the end. That's the bottom line — you can't give them easy plays." □

U.S. Open

Continued from page 18

"I know her strengths, she knows my strengths," Azarenka said. "That's what it's all about, about those turning points, who wants it more, who's willing to go for it more. It's a bunch of combinations."

Williams took a brief break then turned around to play in the semifinals of the doubles with her sister. She is trying to make the finals of the singles and the doubles at the same Grand Slam for the first time since last year at Wimbledon.

For her match against Li, Williams wore pink shoes embroidered with tiny hearts on the heels, each of them with a number — '99, '02, '08, '12 — marking each year she hoisted the trophy in Queens.

She's showing every sign she'll need to add another heart, and Azarenka is the only one standing in the way.

"We always have really good matches. I look forward to it," Williams said.

"It's great to get to another final. She's a great player and she lifts her game when it really counts."

Azarenka, the 2012 and 2013 Australian Open champion, is trying to become the first woman to win the majors in Melbourne and New York in the same year since Martina Hingis in 1997.

If Friday's proceedings on a cool, breezy day in Arthur Ashe Stadium were any indication, Azarenka has some work to do.

Hours before Williams overpowered Li, the 2011 French Open champion and one of the few players with the power to hang on the court with the world's No. 1, Azarenka won a push-fest against Pennetta. She won despite serving six double-faults as part of her 25 unforced errors, against only 15 winners.

There were only five service holds over 18 games, though Azarenka got four of them.

"It was a little bit tricky," Azarenka said. "I couldn't find my rhythm at the beginning. I felt I was rushing too



Victoria Azarenka, of Belarus, returns a shot against Flavia Pennetta, of Italy, during the semifinals of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Friday, Sept. 6, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

much. I couldn't really put the ball in play. It's good I stayed tough, played well in the return game at important moments."

In the late match, Li only hit

eight winners against Williams — evidence of how the world's top player can keep anyone, even some of the biggest hitters, off balance.

Williams also served four aces and hit 19 winners of her own — 15 of which came in the second set, after Li briefly made things competitive. □

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Report: NSA cracked most online encryption

JACK GILLUM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Security Agency, working with the British government, has secretly been unraveling encryption technology that billions of Internet users rely upon to keep their electronic messages and confidential data safe from prying eyes, according to published reports based on internal U.S. government documents. The NSA has bypassed or cracked much of the digital encryption used by businesses and everyday Web users, according to reports Thursday in The New York Times, Britain's Guardian newspaper and the nonprofit news website ProPublica. The reports describe how the NSA invested billions of dollars since 2000 to make nearly everyone's secrets available for government consumption. In doing so, the NSA built powerful supercomputers to break encryption codes and partnered with unnamed technology companies to insert "back doors" into their software, the reports said. Such a practice would give the government access to users' digital information before it was encrypted and sent over the Internet.

"For the past decade, NSA has led an aggressive, multipronged effort to break widely used Internet encryption technologies," according to a 2010 briefing document about the NSA's accomplishments meant for its UK counterpart, Government Communications Headquarters, or GCHQ. Security experts told the news organizations such a code-breaking

practice would ultimately undermine Internet security and leave everyday Web users vulnerable to hackers.

The revelations stem from documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, who sought asylum in Russia this summer. His leaks, first published by the Guardian, re-

charged Snowden under the federal Espionage Act. Thursday's reports described how some of the NSA's "most intensive efforts" focused on Secure Sockets Layer, a type of encryption widely used on the Web by online retailers and corporate networks to secure their Internet traffic. One document said

tion programs, Snowden himself touted using encryption software when he first surfaced with his media revelations in June.

During a Web chat organized by the Guardian on June 17, Snowden told one questioner that "encryption works." Snowden said that "properly implemented strong crypto sys-

requires more processing power to break or decode. Snowden used an encrypted email account from a now-closed private email company, Lavabit, when he sent out invitations to a mid-July meeting at Moscow's Sheremetyevo International Airport.

The operator of Lavabit LLC, Ladar Levison, suspended operations of the encrypted mail service in August, citing a pending "fight in the 4th (U.S.) Circuit Court of Appeals." Levison did not explain the pressures that forced him to shut the firm down but added that "a favorable decision would allow me to resurrect Lavabit as an American company."

The government asked the news organizations not to publish their stories, saying foreign enemies would switch to new forms of communication and make it harder for the NSA to break. The organizations removed some specific details but still published the story, they said, because of the "value of a public debate regarding government actions that weaken the most powerful tools for protecting the privacy of Americans and others."

Such tensions between government officials and journalists, while not new, have become more apparent since Snowden's leaks. Last month, Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger said that British government officials came by his newspaper's London offices to destroy hard drives containing leaked information. "You've had your debate," one UK official told him. "There's no need to write any more." □



This photo provided by The Guardian Newspaper in London shows Edward Snowden, who worked as a contract employee at the National Security Agency, on Sunday, June 9, 2013, in Hong Kong. Associated Press

vealed a massive effort by the U.S. government to collect and analyze all sorts of digital data that Americans send at home and around the world.

Those revelations prompted a renewed debate in the United States about the proper balance between civil liberties and keeping the country safe from terrorists. President Barack Obama said he welcomed the debate and called it "healthy for our democracy" but criticized the leaks; the Justice Department

GCHQ had been trying for years to exploit traffic from popular companies like Google, Yahoo, Microsoft and Facebook.

GCHQ, they said, developed "new access opportunities" into Google's computers by 2012 but said the newly released documents didn't elaborate on how extensive the project was or what kind of data it could access.

Even though the latest document disclosures suggest the NSA is able to compromise many encryp-

tions" were reliable, but he then alluded to the NSA's capability to crack tough encryption systems. "Unfortunately, endpoint security is so terrifically weak that NSA can frequently find ways around it," Snowden said.

It was unclear if Snowden drew a distinction between everyday encryption used on the Internet — the kind described in Thursday's reports — versus more-secure encryption algorithms used to store data on hard drives and often

US stocks end flat, despite jobs report, Syria

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market ended flat Friday as traders hoped for more economic stimulus from the Federal Reserve, and worried about escalating tensions between the U.S. and Syria.

While stocks ended close to where they began, their prices were volatile throughout the day. Stocks opened slightly higher but soon fell after Russian media reported that naval ships were en route to Syria, raising worries of a wider conflict and sending the Dow Jones industrial average down as much 148 points in the first half-hour of trading. The Dow rose as high as 15,009 and dropped as low as 14,789 — a big 220 point range.

“Clearly, (Russia) made the market nervous,” said Dean Junkans, chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank, which has \$170 billion in assets under management.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index rose less than a point, or 0.01 percent, to close at 1,655.17. The Dow ended down 14.98 points, or 0.1 percent, at 14,922.50. The Nasdaq composite rose 1.23 points, or 0.03 percent, to 3,660.01.

Traders were rattled by conflicting forces. A mediocre August jobs report

suggested that U.S. economic growth was slowing, while providing a reason for the Fed to keep up its stimulus program. The geopolitical risks of Syria added to the uncertainty Friday. One clear trend emerged: investors moved money into safer assets. The yield on the 10-year Treasury



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. The stock market ended flat Friday as traders hoped for more economic stimulus from the Federal Reserve, and worried about escalating tensions between the U.S. and Syria.
 (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

note fell to 2.94 percent from 3 percent the day before. Relatively safe, dividend-paying stocks such as utilities were among the best performers in the S&P 500 and gold rose more than 1 percent.

Wall Street was unnerved by signs that the confrontation between the U.S. and Syria over Syria’s alleged use of chemical weapons on civilians was getting

worse. Three Russian naval ships sailed toward Syria on Friday and a fourth was on its way, the Interfax news agency reported, a sign that Russia may assist Syria in case the U.S. does strike. However, Russia President Vladimir Putin’s chief of staff said the ships were intended to help evacuate

disrupt the flow of oil from the region. Oil rose \$2.07 to \$110.43 a barrel.

Putting aside Friday’s volatility, Wall Street had a pretty good week. The S&P 500 rose 1.4 percent for the week, and the Nasdaq was up nearly 2 percent. It was the best five-day gain for the S&P 500 in two months. U.S. employers added 169,000 jobs last month, fewer than the 177,000 economists had forecast. The number of jobs added in July was estimated by the government at 104,000, down from an earlier 162,000.

“This was a horrible set of jobs figures, starting with large revision to last month’s number,” Tom di Galoma, head of fixed-income rates sales at ED&F Man Capital, wrote in an email to clients.

Friday’s jobs survey is the last major piece of economic data the Fed will have to consider before its September 17-18 policy meeting, when it will decide the fate of its large bond-buying program.

The Fed has been buying \$85 billion in Treasuries and other bonds each month to keep interest rates low and encourage hiring and economic growth. It was widely believed that the Fed would start phasing out its purchases this month. □

Oil hits 2-year high on US jobs reports, Syria

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil closed at a two-year high Friday on a combination of fear of escalating tension in the Middle East and hope for continued stimulus measures from the U.S. Federal Reserve.

President Barack Obama has been trying to win support at home and abroad for military action against Syria for what the U.S. and its allies say was a chemical weapons attack against Syrian citizens. Obama has said a military strike would be limited in scope.

But Russian President Vladimir Putin stoked fears of a bigger confrontation when he said his country will continue helping Syria if it comes under attack.

U.S. economic news also gave a boost to oil as the latest jobs data fueled expectations that the Fed will keep its economic stimulus measures in place longer than expected.

U.S. benchmark oil for October delivery rose \$2.16, or 2 percent, to close at \$110.53 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That’s the highest closing price since May 3, 2011. Brent, the benchmark for international crudes, gained 86 cents to \$116.12 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. Speaking at a briefing after Friday’s Group of 20 summit, Putin answered with a firm “we will” when asked if Russia will keep providing assistance to Syria if it’s attacked. Ten members of the Group of 20 joined the U.S. in a joint statement accusing the Syrian government of carrying out a chemical weapons attack on civilians last month and calling for a strong international response against the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad. The statement stopped short of explicitly calling for military action against Syria.

In the U.S., the Labor Department reported that employers added 169,000 jobs in August, while July’s figure was corrected downward from an earlier estimate of 162,000 jobs to 104,000 jobs, the fewest in over a year. □

2 Fed officials offer differing views on bond buys

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two voting members of the Federal Reserve panel that sets interest rates expressed differing views Friday over when the Fed should reduce its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases.

Esther George, president of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank, said that the Fed should slow the purchases after it meets Sept. 17-18. She said she could support an initial reduction of \$15 billion a month.

“It is time to begin a gradual — and predictable — normalization of policy,” she said in a speech in Omaha, Nebraska.

But Charles Evans, president of the Chicago Fed, said that he wants to see more data showing that the economy is gaining momentum. He also wants evidence that factors keeping inflation at ultra-low levels are temporary, during a speech in Greenville, South Carolina.

The Fed’s bond purchases have helped keep long-term interest rates low, encouraging more borrowing and spending. The Fed has also kept short-term interest rates near zero since December 2008.

Evans spoke before the government issued a subpar August jobs report — a report the Fed will weigh in

deciding whether to slow its bond buying. George spoke afterward.

Despite wanting to see more data, Evans said the Fed could begin to reduce the bond purchases before the end of the year, if the economy improves. Those comments echoed remarks made by Chairman Ben Bernanke.

George has argued that the bond purchases have lost their effectiveness and are raising the risks of financial market instability and higher inflation in the future. In her speech, George said that slowing the bond purchases will likely make financial markets volatile for a period of time. But she

said postponing the move “won’t ease the inevitable adjustment.” She added taking action now with a “firm plan and clear commitment” would be a step toward the Fed’s objective of sustainable growth.

The comments do not represent a change in positions for the two Fed regional presidents, both of whom have votes on the Fed’s policy committee this year. Evans has been a supporter of the Fed’s bond purchases. George has objected to them at each of the Fed’s five previous meetings this year.

The Fed’s policy-making committee will also meet in October and December. □

US economy adds 169,000 jobs; unemployment rate falls

CATHERINE RAMPELL
© 2013 New York Times

The nation's employers added 169,000 jobs in August, slightly below what economists were expecting. The unemployment rate ticked down to 7.3 percent from 7.4 percent, but it fell largely because people dropped out of the labor force and so were no longer counted as unemployed.

In fact, the share of working-age Americans who were either working or looking for work was at its lowest level since 1978, a time when women were less likely to be participating in the labor force.

The report also contained large downward revisions to job growth in July and June. August's growth was about in line with the average hiring rate seen so far this year, which has been steady but mediocre.

If the economy were to fill the jobs gap left by the recession within the next four years, around 300,000 jobs a month would need to be created, according to the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution.

The latest numbers leave in question whether the Federal Reserve will start scaling back its stimulus measures after it meets Sept. 17-18, as Wall Street seems to expect. The Fed has been buying up long-term Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities in order to keep long-term interest rates low, and the Fed

chairman, Ben S. Bernanke, has said that the central bank will reduce the rate of those purchases "later this year."

Friday's somewhat disappointing jobs report, released by the Labor Department, came on the heels of some positive economic reports that

diate tapering of the Fed's monthly asset purchases or delaying that move until later this year."

Health care, retail and food services were among the industries that added jobs, while payrolls fell in the information industry. Government employers, which have generally

erate on just-in-time schedules, making it difficult for employees to predict how many hours they will have from week to week.

"It's really frustrating not knowing whether I'll have money to pay rent and my bills," said Charles Eden, 20, who works at a Wendy's in St. Louis for \$7.60 an hour.

to work but have stopped looking are included, the total underemployment rate rises to 13.7 percent.

(STORY CAN END HERE. OPTIONAL MATERIAL FOLLOWS.)

The labor force participation rate remains so low partly because the population is aging and partly because workers are sitting on the sidelines as they wait for the economy to heal. Some who took shelter from the poor job market by enrolling in college and retraining programs these last few years are finally starting to cycle back into the work force, and the lucky ones are finding new opportunities. "I have people call me all the time now wanting to give me a job, and I have to say, OK, thank you, but I think I have enough jobs now," said Jordan Douglas of Pampa, Texas, a single mother working 60 to 70 hours a week in three jobs as a registered nurse.

Douglas, 25, was laid off from a nursing home in February 2012 and struggled to find work. She decided to enroll in school full-time after finding a program that allowed her to continue receiving unemployment benefits while in training.

"I couldn't have been where I am today had I not gone back to school, and I couldn't have gone back to school if I hadn't gotten laid off," she said. "I didn't know it at the time, but it worked out perfectly. I have been so blessed." □



Job seekers check out companies at a job fair in Miami Lakes, Fla. U.S. employers added 169,000 jobs in August, and the unemployment rate dropped to 7.3 percent, the lowest in nearly five years, according to the Labor Department, Friday, Sept. 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

had helped reinforce Wall Street expectations that "tapering" would come in September.

"We still expect the Fed to go ahead with the taper later this month," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics. But he acknowledged that the latest jobs report was "mixed bag that can be used to support an imme-

been shrinking in the last few years, added workers in August.

Employment gains in the recovery have been disproportionately in lower-wage sectors like food service and retail, causing concern about not only the quantity of the new jobs but also their quality. The industries are more likely to hire part-time workers and op-

Last week, he had 30 hours; this week, 12. Ideally, he wants 40. "It's really hard to find a second job not knowing whether I can work or whether I can't work in a given week."

As of August, there were 7.9 million Americans who wanted to work full time but could find only part-time work. When these workers and workers who want

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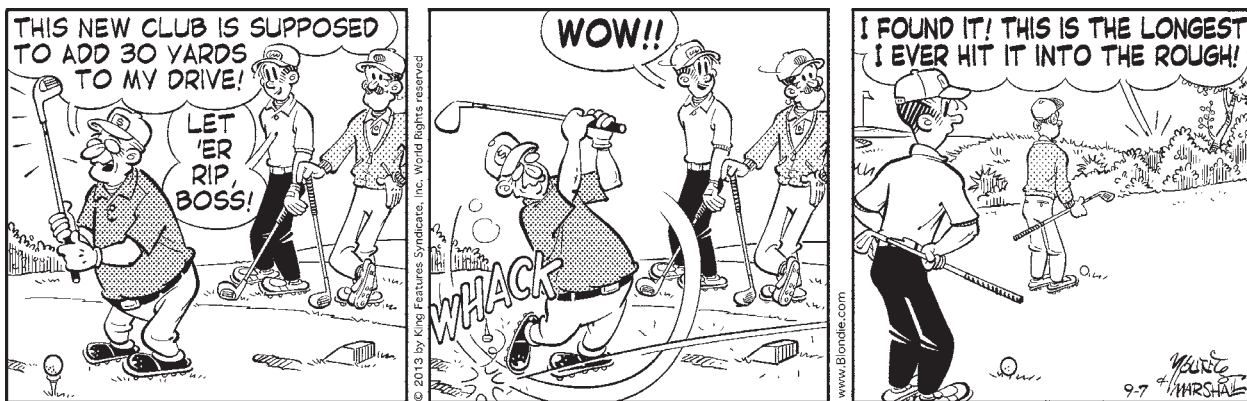
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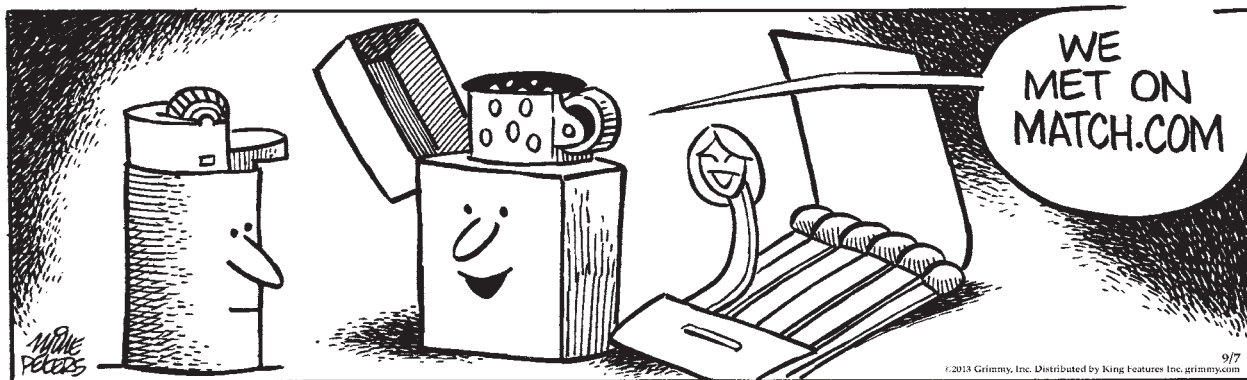
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1			5		
		3			6		2	
	9				8			6
8					7	6	1	
	4	2	5					8
2			9				6	
	8		2			9		
		9			3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/07

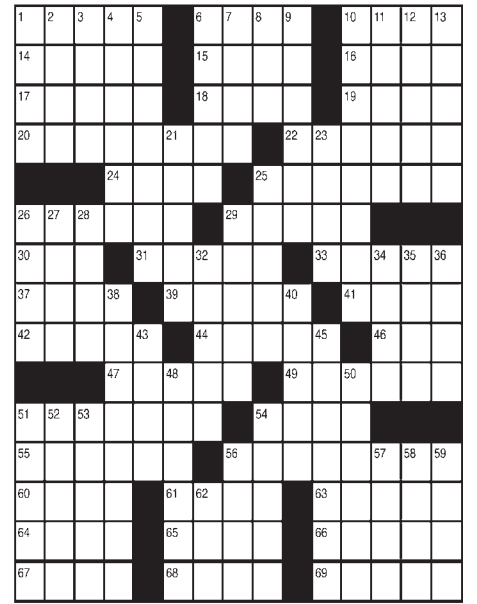
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	7	1	5	2	4	9	6	8
9	2	5	7	8	6	3	1	4
4	8	6	1	3	9	2	5	7
2	4	3	6	1	8	7	9	5
6	1	7	9	5	2	4	8	3
8	5	9	4	7	3	6	2	1
5	9	4	3	6	1	8	7	2
1	6	2	8	4	7	5	3	9
7	3	8	2	9	5	1	4	6

ACROSS

- Hairdos
- Louie salad; cool lunch dish
- Facts & figures
- Confuse
- Garment worn over pajamas
- Heroic tale
- Back tooth
- Per person
- Is unable to
- Acted as chairman
- Come forth
- Screwball
- Like a school uniform skirt, often
- Against, in a court case
- Drinks made with ice cream
- "Been Working on the Railroad"
- Bursting at the ; overly full
- Full of foliage
- Ooze out
- Smooth and glossy
- Urgent
- Mountains of South America
- High-powered surgical beam
- Comfy room
- Fencing sword
- Stanzas
- Aisle
- Three hours before midnight
- Woodwind player
- out; went boldly forward
- Oliver's request
- "My Country 'Tis of "
- Put up with
- Finds a sum
- Was dishonest
- Jutting shelf
- Robin's home
- Catch sight of
- Derisive smile



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/7/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- Sleep outdoors
- Smell
- Out of work
- Flattened drink containers
- Grave
- Stream
- Rocky ice cream
- Alphabet's start
- Looked at
- No longer here
- Take ; dismantle
- Slight coloring
- Played a role
- Medicinal amounts
- Lunch or dinner
- Sits for an artist
- Passport stamp
- Fair; level
- Rex or Donna
- Make a smudge worse
- Narrow street
- Lends a hand
- On the house

SOLO	MACAW	ATOP
AVON	AMUSE	DONE
GENT	LIP	SERVICE
ARE	SASS	OILER
LEEDS	MAC	
FRIDAY	REDEEM	
LUNGS	ALIAS	GOO
OBEY	ONION	BOND
ELS	SWEET	PACED
ESCHEW	MOSEYS	
HAS	LINEN	
STOOD	REDD	THE
HOUSEBOUND	PRAY	
ADZE	INDIA	HIVE
MOON	TEENY	ICED

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9/7/13

- Cravings
- Most irksome
- Actor Bacon
- Cutting tools
- Tenants' homes
- Fight
- Corned beef sandwich
- Lady
- Dwelling
- Upper House
- UK lawmakers
- Poor
- Biden, for short
- Carousel, e.g.
- Border
- Buck or doe
- and hers

Prodigy back at the helm for America's Cup defender

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY
© 2013 New York Times

When James Spithill was a boy growing up on Scotland Island in the Pittwater Estuary north of Sydney, he and his friends would sometimes miss the ferry. That meant the only way to make it to school was to swim to the mainland. "It was a massive swim, had to be a couple of ki-

"He's very personable around the dock," said Gary Jobson, a sailing analyst and former Cup tactician. "But on the boat, he's absolutely fearless." That could come in handy starting Saturday, the first day of an America's Cup final where there is plenty to fear, both from a new class of 72-foot catamarans that can hit speeds

quant. The team leaders have been trading barbs for months, with Team New Zealand's managing director, Grant Dalton, particularly outspoken about Oracle's stewardship of the Cup. The event attracted only three challengers to San Francisco, in part because of cost and safety concerns. Dalton, 56, also accused Oracle Team USA



The platform of Oracle Team USA-17, owned by the billionaire, Larry Ellison, at Pier 80 in San Francisco, Sept. 4, 2013. USA-17 arrived in San Francisco by freighter in March 2011, more than a year after two America's Cup victories in Valencia, Spain, but there is still no definitive plan for its use. (Annie Tripp/The New York Times)

lometers, at least a mile or two," Spithill said. "We sort of rated our chances with the sharks, and we figured as long as we were with a couple of mates, we've got good odds." Although sharks are not uncommon in Pittwater, the odds worked out, and Spithill, an intense red-haired Australian, has spent his life measuring risks and rewards on the ocean ever since. Now 34 and Oracle Team USA's skipper and helmsman as it prepares to defend the America's Cup, Spithill is an appealing character: long on talent and positive energy, bristling with a fierce ambition and a reputation for leading by example. But ultimately, Spithill, a prodigy much better known as Jimmy than James, has made his name by taking very expensive yachts owned by other men and steering them with a cold-blooded precision in the heat of the moment.

greater than 40 knots and also from the threat posed by the opposition. Spithill's Oracle Team USA and its billionaire owner, Larry Ellison, are still in possession of the Cup, the oldest major trophy in global sports. But Emirates Team New Zealand - a two-time champion - badly wants it back. "We've been watching them very closely, and they've been watching us very closely," Spithill said. "Looking at the performance data, I think we've got a real race on our hands." That would be a welcome development for a regatta that in the challenger series phase, known as the Louis Vuitton Cup, was an unfortunate mixture of dull (lopsided victories) and farcical (several races featured one boat sailing unopposed). A compelling final would seem necessary if the competition is to avoid completing a belly flop in San Francisco Bay, and the duel has already been pi-

of cheating after details emerged of undeclared modifications to its yachts in a preliminary series of competitions. On Tuesday, an international jury penalized Oracle by docking it two points and suspending some team members for the rest of the Cup. "I'm not going to lie and say it hasn't been a distraction; it's been a huge distraction for the team and for the families," Spithill said. "But on the other side, myself and the team, we've used it as motivation, to really want to go at them with." When Russell Coutts, the most successful Cup sailor in the modern era, took command of Ellison's team for the next Cup cycle, his first hire was Spithill. Spithill is the skipper and driving force now. He complements his training with boxing and paddle boarding, but he already has had to navigate through rough water in this Cup without so much as one official race. □

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Labs seeking sarin chemical signature: 99-125-81

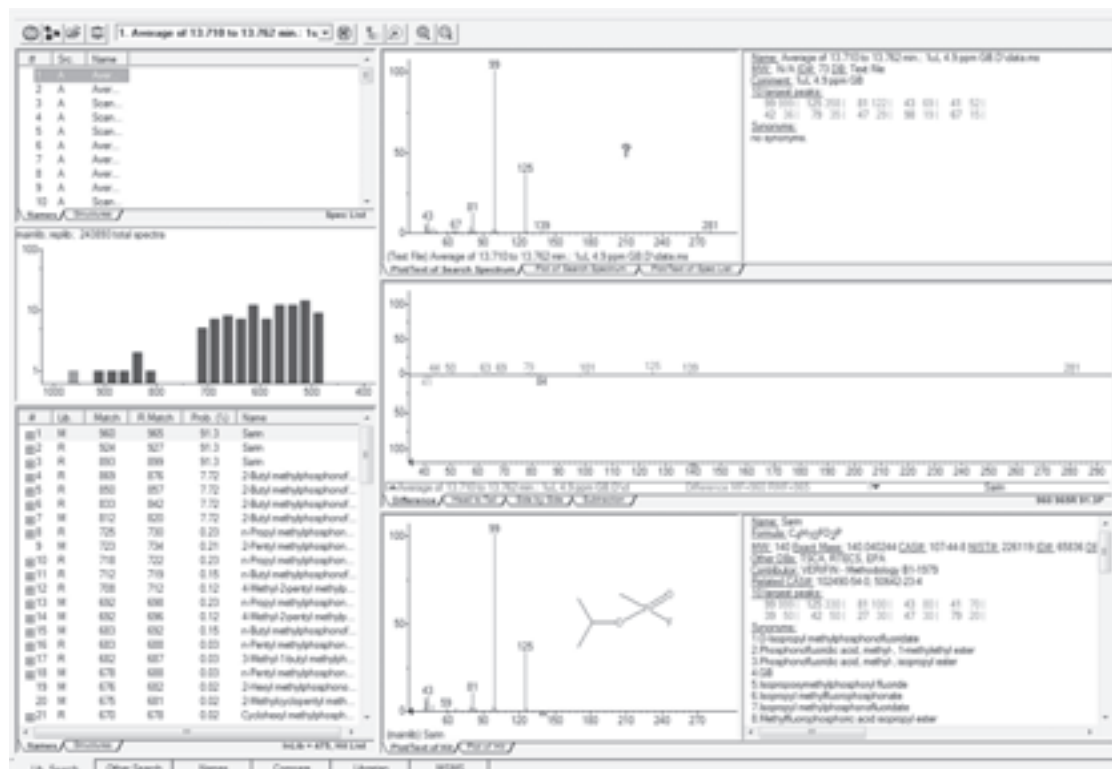
SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three simple numbers will prove whether sarin was used to gas Syrians last month: 99-125-81.

Chemists this week around Europe are feeding samples of bodily tissue and dirt collected after chemical attacks in Syria into sophisticated machines. They are waiting for those three numbers to read out in a bar graph on a computer screen. The numbers are sarin's fingerprint, said Carlos Fraga, a chemist who specializes in nerve agent forensics at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the U.S. "You're always going to see that," Fraga says once chemists see those digits, they know they've got sarin. But he

giant sorting machine. The suspected sarin is separated, but at this point scientists still can't figure out what it is. It's just not mixed up with everything else anymore.

The separated chemicals are injected into a mass spectrometer, which hits the molecules with an electron beam that knocks out an electron to give the molecule a positive charge. The machine can't analyze sarin when it is in its normal neutral level, Fraga said, but when ionized, it breaks apart into a telltale pattern. It's that pattern, shown as a bar graph on a computer screen, that reads the atomic masses of the chemical fragments — the molecular fingerprint. Each chemical has a special distribution based on



This image provided by the Department of Energy shows a screen shot of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Mass Spectral Search Program, which depicts the chemical spectral fingerprint of sarin at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash.

Associated Press



In this image provided by the Department of Energy, chemist Brian Dockendorff works on a mass spectrometer at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash., Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013.

Associated Press

and other experts say it will probably take about two weeks for scientists to re-test, confirm and write up reports. In the process, chemists have to turn that solid dirt and tissue first into liquid and then into gas. Chemists dissolve the samples by putting them into a solvent, such as methanol, and shaking them, Fraga said. Then that's injected into a gas chromatograph, which looks like a big oven. It heats the liquid, turning it into a gas, then acts as a

the fragments the molecules split into. For sarin, that's 99-125-81. Sarin should take exactly the same time to run through each test — the time varies a bit from lab to lab based on individual equipment — so the clock provides another method of confirmation, Fraga said. Once scientists get that 99-125-81 reading, he said, "You have that 'CSI' moment and you're, 'Oh, man, there it is.'"

If it were a television crime drama, the credits would

soon be rolling. But the reality of international diplomacy and chemistry doesn't work so fast. One test in one lab won't be nearly enough. There will be gas chromatography-mass spectrometry tests, considered the gold standard. Then there will be liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry tests, high resolution spectroscopy, infrared spectroscopy and others. Chemists are looking for other chemical signatures of the nerve agent and using different

techniques to prove the same thing. There's cleaning, prepping, checking more samples, checking against known sarin quantities, checking against blanks. And that's just one lab. Other labs will be doing the same to make sure everyone's getting the same answer. There are probably 20 different tests for each initial 99-125-81 hit. "That's the boring part, but you have to check everything out," Fraga said. Further, the chemists are working with agents that can kill by blocking nerve cells from sending messages to each other. People exposed to sarin or other nerve agents can suffer convulsions, excessive saliva, pinpoint pupils, blurred

vision and respiratory distress as well as vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, headache, changes in heart rate, loss of consciousness and paralysis. So throw in glove boxes, airlocks and high-tech filter systems, said Ralf Trapp, a France-based international chemical weapons disarmament consultant and scientist. And in the end, nothing chemists find can precisely prove just who did the gassing. This is the chemical equivalent of a medical examiner saying that gaping hole in the body is a gunshot from this caliber weapon. Chemists might discover that what was used was not sarin, but soman or VX or another banned chemical agent. □

Study: The right bacteria might help fight obesity

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Call it a hidden ally: The right germs just might be able to help fight fat. Different kinds of bacteria that live inside the gut can help spur obesity or protect against it, say scientists at Washington University in St. Louis who transplanted intestinal germs from fat or lean people into mice

and watched the rodents change. And what they ate determined whether the good germs could move in and do the job. Thursday's report raises the possibility of one day turning gut bacteria into personalized fat-fighting therapies, and it may help explain why some people have a harder time losing weight than others do. □

Gandolfini on screen again in 'Enough Said'

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

TORONTO (AP) — After Nicole Holofcener cast James Gandolfini in her divorcee romantic comedy "Enough Said," the "Sopranos" actor kept suggesting she rethink her decision. Alec Baldwin, he insisted, would be far better suited. "He would list some actors he thought could do a much better job," Holofcener said in a recent interview. "I felt confident he could do this part. More than he did. He was quite certain that he couldn't pull it off."

What began as a stretch outside Gandolfini's comfort zone is now debuting, tragically, as one of Gandolfini's final performances. "Enough Said," which premieres Saturday at the Toronto International Film Festival ahead of Fox Searchlight's Sept. 18 release,

was filmed about a year before the actor died of a heart attack in June. (His final film, the Brooklyn crime movie "Animal Rescue," is expected to be released next year.)

Holofcener's "Enough Said" is about a middle-aged masseuse (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) who begins dating a fellow divorcee (Gandolfini) also with a daughter going off to college.

Gandolfini's career was more varied than many realize, vacillating between comedy (the political satire "In the Loop," the Broadway play "God of Carnage"), turns of tenderness (the childless parent drama "We Are the Rileys," the Maurice Sendak adaptation "Where the Wild Things Are") and even musicals (John Turturro's "Romance and Cigarettes"). But he's particularly unadorned in "Enough Said," playing a

sensitive, teddy bear of a father falling for Louis-Dreyfus's more hesitant character.

Holofcener, the director of the mother-daughter comedy "Lovely & Amazing," had nearly cast Gandolfini in the Oliver Platt role for her 2010 film "Please Give." Although Holofcener says she was "intimidated by him as a person and an actor," she knew she wanted to work with him. Gandolfini, in turn, had long wanted to move away from some of the more thuggish characters he's best known for — not only Tony Soprano but his henchmen of "True Romance" and "Get Shorty." "I didn't feel like I was taking a risk," Holofcener said. "A lot of people said, 'Oh, no one's ever seen him in a role like this.' But if you watch 'The Sopranos,' he has an enormous range. That character wasn't just



This publicity image released by Toronto International Film Festival shows James Gandolfini, left, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus in a scene from "Enough Said," a film being showcased at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Associated Press

a bully."

Premiering the film in Toronto without Gandolfini, Holofcener said, is "bittersweet."

"I really wish he could have seen the finished film," she said, "because hopefully he would have seen how lovely he is in it." □

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This image released by Starpix shows, from left, host Heidi Klum, designer Zac Posen, Nina Garcia and actress Kerry Washington at the "Project Runway" show during Fashion Week in New York on Friday, Sept. 6, 2013.

Associated Press

Kerry Washington gives 'Runway' a hint of scandal

JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There was a glamorous whiff of scandal — make that "Scandal" — at "Project Runway" on Friday, with Emmy-nominated actress Kerry Washington making an appearance as guest judge for the reality show's season finale at New York Fashion Week.

Washington, who plays a wily political strategist in her red-hot series, is a fast-growing fashion luminary as well — a development she described as an "occupational hazard," though a happy one.

"I've had to learn about fashion because as an actor, it's such a huge part of the marketing," Washington said in a pre-show interview, dressed in a flouncy floral Stella McCartney dress. "I'm the daughter of a professor, and an A student, and I approach it as a student. I do my research. I stay informed. I communicate with the designers." Washington joined regular judges Heidi Klum, Nina Garcia and Zac Posen at the Lincoln Center tents to watch eight final contestants display their wares. But actually, there remain

only three finalists. Their names will remain a secret to the rest of us as the show catches up when the finale airs Oct. 17.

Garcia, fashion director at Marie Claire, was not giving up any secrets, but said the three finalists were clearly the most deserving. "They definitely had the best collections," she said.

As for Klum, she said the quality this year was so good, it's a real toss-up who will emerge victorious. "This year it's gonna be very tough," she said. "They could all win. The quality is great." Klum insisted she's still not bored after 12 seasons. "What keeps it alive for me are the people," she said. "They are not actors. They are real people with real stories. When you see people who are not in this industry who are hungry for it ... that makes me excited. Show what you got! I love it." "Runway" is nominated for five Emmys this year, and Klum, who's nominated along with co-host Tim Gunn, said she was thrilled about the upcoming awards — for which she's already picked out a gown. Versace, in case you were wondering.

"Every year when they're

nominating, I'm sweating the day before that we get nominated again," she said. "Because we are a show that's been around for 12 seasons now, and some of the biggest shows all of a sudden don't get nominated anymore. So you just never know! Obviously if we would win, we would even be more happy," she added with a grin. As for designer Posen, it's his second season as a judge, and he said the biggest challenge for him is time management. Only a day earlier he had launched his secondary line, Zac Zac Posen. "And I'm missing some fittings today, which kills me," he said. But Posen values the chance to work with up-and-coming designers on the show, and sometimes give them some needed "tough love" — as he got from his own mentors. "Sometimes you need that wake up," he said of the occasionally harsh criticism on the show. But it's all in the name of better fashion, he said.

"I've had great teachers," he said. "So I've just tried to take the best from the different mentors I've had, and tried to channel that. □

'Mockingbird' NY suit against 2 defendants settled



This Aug. 20, 2007 file photo shows author Harper Lee smiling during a ceremony honoring the four new members of the Alabama Academy of Honor in at the Capitol in Montgomery, Ala.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee has settled a New York lawsuit against two of the defendants she sued in May to re-secure the copyright to her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. A court filing Friday in federal court in Manhattan says Lee's lawsuit against defendants Leigh Ann Winick and Gerald Posner has been dismissed. A lawyer for the two said a settlement with the remaining

defendants is likely to be reached next week.

Attorney Vincent Carissimi wouldn't disclose the terms of the settlement. A lawyer for Lee did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The 87-year-old author sued her former literary agent's son-in-law, Samuel Pinkus; companies he allegedly created; and alleged associates of his. She claimed they had failed to protect the book's copyright. □

A.C. Crispin, author and advocate, dies at age 63

NEW YORK (AP) — A.C. Crispin, a science fiction author who wrote popular tie-in novels to "Star Trek" and "Star Wars" and helped run the online watchdog "Writer Beware" that alerted authors to literary scams, has died. Crispin died of cancer Friday at age 63, according to an announcement on the Web site of the publisher Tor Books, and on the site for Writer Beware. Starting in 1983, she wrote more than 20 novels, many

of them based on movies and TV series, including "Star Trek," "Star Wars" and "Pirates of the Caribbean."

Other novels by Crispin, whose full name was Ann Carol Crispin, included "Storms of Destiny," "Sylvester" and an original series, "Starbridge."

In 1998, Crispin and Victoria Strauss founded Writer Beware, which provides warnings about everything from poetry contests to vanity presses. □

Arm And Shame



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2013 New York Times

The Obama team has clearly struggled with its Syria policy, but, in fairness, this is a wickedly complex problem. We need a policy response that simultaneously deters another Syrian poison gas attack, doesn't embroil the United States in the Syrian civil war and also doesn't lead to the sudden collapse of the Syrian state with all its chemical weapons, or, worse, a strengthening of the Syrian regime and its allies Hezbollah and Iran.

However, I think President Barack Obama has the wrong strategy for threading that needle. He's seeking congressional support for a one-time "shock and awe" missile attack against Syrian military targets. The right strategy is "arm and shame."

Let me explain. Count me with the activists on the question of whether the United States should respond to the Syrian regime's murder of some 1,400 civilians, more than 400 of them children, with poison gas. If there is no global response to this breaching of a universal taboo on using poison gas, the world will be a much more dangerous place. And only the U.S. can spearhead a credible response: Russia and China have rendered the U.N. Security Council meaningless; Europe is a military museum; the Arab League is worthless; all others are spectators. We are out front - alone. We may not want to be, but here we are. So we must lead.

But upholding this norm in the context of the Syrian civil war is not a simple matter. Start with the fact that probably the only way to produce a unified, pluralistic, multisectionary Syria is for an international army to come in, take over the country, monopolize all weaponry and referee a long transition to consensual rule. Syrians can't forge that on their own now. But such a force is not possible in this century, and Iraq demonstrated how hard it is for even that option to work.

Thus, the most likely option for Syria is some kind of de facto partition, with the pro-Assad, predominantly Alawite Syrians controlling one region and the Sunni and Kurdish Syrians controlling the rest. But the Sunnis are themselves divided between the pro-Western, secular Free Syrian Army, which

we'd like to see win, and the pro-Islamist and pro-al-Qaida jihadist groups, like the Nusra Front, which we'd like to see lose.

That's why I think the best response to the use of poison gas by President Bashar Assad is not a cruise missile attack on Assad's forces, but an increase in the training and arming of the Free Syrian Army - including the anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons it has long sought. This has three virtues: 1) Better arming responsible rebel units, and they do exist, can really hurt the Assad regime in a sustained way - that is the whole point of deterrence - without exposing the U.S. to global opprobrium for bombing Syria; 2) Better arming the rebels actually enables them to protect themselves more effectively from this regime; 3) Better arming the rebels might increase the influence on the ground of the more moderate opposition groups over the jihadist ones - and eventually may put more pressure on Assad, or his allies, to negotiate a political solution. Yes, there's little chance of them being brought to justice now, but do not underestimate how much of a deterrent it can be for the world community to put the mark of Cain on their foreheads so they know that they and their families can never again travel anywhere except to North Korea, Iran and Vladimir Putin's dacha. It might even lead some of Assad's supporters to want to get rid of him and seek a political deal.

When we alone just bomb Syria to defend "our" red line, we turn the rest of the world into spectators - many of whom will root against us. When we shame the people who perpetrated this poison gas attack, we can summon the rest of the world, maybe even inspire them, to join us in redrawing this red line, as a moral line and, therefore, a global line. It is easy for Putin, China and Iran to denounce American bombing, but much harder for them to defend Syrian use of weapons of mass destruction, so let's force them to choose. Best of all, a moral response - a shaming - can be an unlimited response, not a limited one.

A limited, transactional cruise missile attack meets Obama's need to preserve his credibility. But it also risks changing the subject from Assad's behavior to ours and - rather than empowering the rebels to act and enlisting the world to act - could make us owners of this story in ways that we do not want. "Arm and shame" is how we best help the decent forces in Syria, deter further use of poison gas, isolate Assad and put real pressure on him or others around him to cut a deal. Is it perfect? No, but perfect is not on the menu in Syria. □



MAUREEN DOWD
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WASHINGTON - It's a bewildering time here.

Nancy Pelosi is the hawk urging military action. Britain refuses to be our poodle. The French are being less supercilious and more supportive militarily. Republicans are squeamish about launching an attack. Top generals are going pacifist.

The president who got elected on his anti-war stance is now trying to buck up a skittish Congress and country about why a military strike is a moral necessity. Donald Rumsfeld doesn't want to go to war with the Army that Chuck Hagel has. John Bolton is the dove who doesn't think we should take sides, or that it matters "what the intelligence shows."

Once more, we're vociferously debating whether to slap down a murderous dictator who has gassed his own people, and whether we have the legit intel to prove he used WMD.

Many around President Barack Obama are making the case that if he doesn't stand firm on his line in the sand, having gotten so far out on a limb, he'll look weak and America will lose face and embolden its foes. The secretary of state is arguing if the dictator had nothing to hide, why was he so reluctant to let in U.N. inspectors?

In many ways, Syria is an eerie replay of Iraq, but with many of the players scrambled and on opposite sides.

Just about the only completely consistent person is John Mc-

Shadow Of A Doubt

Cain, who's always spoiling for a fight.

Once more, we see the magnitude of the tragedy of Iraq because the decision on Syria is so colored by the fact that an American president and vice president took us to war in the Middle East on false pretenses and juiced up intelligence, dragging the country into an emotionally and financially exhausting decade of war and an identity crisis about our role in the world.

W. was so black and white, as he mischaracterized and miscalculated, that he ended up driving America into a gray haze, where we're unsure if our old role as John Wayne taking on the global bad guys is even right.

We now actually have a president who understands the difference between Sunnis and Shiites. But our previous gigantic misreadings of the Middle East, and the treacherous job of fathoming which sides to support in the Arab uprisings - are the rebels in these countries the good guys or al-Qaida sympathizers? - have left us literally gun shy.

It should not be so hard to reach a consensus on trying to prevent President Bashar Assad from killing tens of thousands and making refugees of millions more, with chemical weapons and traditional ones.

But the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing Tuesday dramatically showed how our misjudgment on Iraq infects our judgment on Syria.

A panel of top Obama officials who don't even agree themselves about what to do in Syria did their best to stick to White House talking points, arguing against what Secretary of State John Kerry called "armchair isolationism," as they were grilled by skeptical, and sometimes hostile, senators.

Kerry and Hagel both voted as senators for the authorization to invade Iraq and then came to regret it; Martin Dempsey, chair-

man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress last spring that he was uncertain if the U.S. "could identify the right people" to give arms to in the Syrian opposition.

But there was the trio trying to help the president make his case that American credibility is too big to fail.

"After the fiasco of Iraq and over a decade of war, how can this administration make a guarantee that our military actions will be limited?" asked Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M. Indeed, Kerry showed how slippery the slope is when he answered a question by Chairman Robert Menendez, D-N.J., who opposed the Iraq invasion but supports a Syrian smackdown.

When Menendez asked Kerry if the administration would accept "a prohibition for having American boots on the ground" as part of a resolution authorizing force in Syria, Kerry replied: "It would be preferable not" to "have boots on the ground."

Then came the "but." "But in the event Syria imploded, for instance," Kerry said, "or in the event there was a threat of a chemical weapons cache falling into the hands of Al Nusra or someone else, and it was clearly in the interest of our allies and all of us - the British, the French and others - to prevent those weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of the worst elements, I don't want to take off the table an option that might or might not be available to a president of the United States to secure our country." Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., chided Kerry: "I didn't find that a very appropriate response regarding boots on the ground."

Realizing he had been undiplomatic, the top diplomat retreated from his scary hypothetical immediately, saying "Let's shut that door now as tight as we can." It's up to Obama to show Americans that he knows what he's doing, unlike his predecessor. □

High Holy Days, And Cantors Are On The Road Again

SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN
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On the eve of Rosh Hashana last year, as Lois Kittner was passing through security at the airport in Newark, N.J., a security screener halted her. He had a question about several strange items in her carry-on bag. One looked like some kind of animal bone; the other was a piece of metal that came to a suspiciously narrow point.

So Kittner set about explaining. She was a cantorial student at the Academy for Jewish Religion and was headed to North Carolina to help lead services at a synagogue there. The bony thing was a shofar, the instrument fashioned from a ram's horn and blown to herald the Jewish New Year. As for that supposed weapon, it was a yad, a thin rod with a tip shaped like a pointing hand, which is used to follow the handwritten text on a Torah scroll.

"You don't want to be that person in security who looks scared and uncomfortable," Kittner, 56, recalled in a recent interview. "It didn't even occur to me there'd be a problem. Friends tell me there's never a problem with shofars when you go to Miami."

Such are the vicissitudes of the traveling cantor, that phenomenon of the High Holy Days, which began last Wednesday. Hundreds if not thousands of ordained cantors, seminary students and trained laity, crisscross the globe to serve congregations without full-time cantors.

They play a role at once essential and short-lived. The liturgy of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is built around some of the most famous melodies in the Judaic canon - "Kol Nidre," "Avinu Malkeinu," "Unetaneh Tokef." The holiday's mixture of penitence, remembrance and celebration rests on song.

Some of these itinerant cantors build decades-long ties to one particular congregation. Others change pulpits nearly every year. All must appear

reassuring and accessible and meaningful to worshippers who may never have seen or heard the cantor before.

"One of the challenges is trying to find common ground in prayer and study amongst this huge diversity," Susan Caro, the former president of the American Conference of Cantors, wrote in an email from Singapore, where she is serving a congregation. "This is further challenged because at the High Holy Days, people are looking

war."

Jack Falk, on the other hand, typifies the cantor as road warrior. Though he lives in Portland, Ore., Falk has spent all but one year since 1989 away from home, chanting the liturgy as far afield as the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., the Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills in New York, Congregation Kol Ami in Tampa and Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin, Ill. His son has dubbed Falk "a boxcar cantor."

In that role, he once was

cut but is not ordained. "It's to give people an extra boost to carry through the year, to provide the musical setting by which they can open their hearts."

As for the peculiar challenges, Falk drew an analogy to his day job as a technical-writing consultant. "In the secular world, I have to go into a company and meet their engineers, their staff writers, and figure out what the client wants," he said. "It's much tougher doing that in a Jewish High Holy Days

structor in the coastal town of Astoria, Ore. For the first time in 53 years, since its only synagogue closed down, the Jewish community there intended to hold Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. Could Falk lead them?

So he bleached out the wine stains that Passover had left on his kittel, the white robe often worn by worshippers on the High Holy Days to symbolize purity. He found a room in Astoria through airbnb.com. He packed up his grand-



Jack Falk, a traveling cantor, at his home in Portland, Ore., Sept. 3, 2013. Falk is one of hundreds, if not thousands, of ordained cantors, seminary students and trained laity who crisscross the globe to serve congregations without full-time cantors for the High Holy Days.
 (Leah Nash/The New York Times)

for comfort and familiarity - but what is comfortable and familiar, what reminds each person of home, can be hugely different from person to person."

Now in her 10th set of High Holy Days at the United Hebrew Congregation of Singapore, Caro embodies the more stable end of the traveling cantor spectrum. John Siegling, an operationally trained layman from Charleston, S.C., has sung for a Reform Jewish congregation in Tenafly, N.J., every year since 1973.

"I'm sort of the only person left from when I started," said Siegling, 70. "I was there for the Yom Kippur

put up in the converted viewing room of a funeral home near the Elgin synagogue. When he led congregants in Yakima, Wash., in the tashlich ritual of casting away bits of bread to represent their sins, the closest body of moving water to the synagogue was a drainage ditch. His wife, Reva, a teacher, has not been able to spend the holidays with him for 25 years because she cannot miss so many days of class. "The fulfillment - I hate to sound corny - is to lift the spiritual connection in the room," said Falk, 63, who grew up in a modern Orthodox family in Connecticut.

service. What is it that the rabbi is accustomed to doing? What is the mood of the congregation? What is the architecture of the building? Where are people sitting?"

Like many traveling cantors in the digital era, Falk auditions for jobs by providing congregations with links to his performances. He has found increasingly tough competition for High Holy Days jobs lately, with about four serious candidates for any given position.

Until mid-August, in fact, Falk looked to be without a gig this year. Then he heard from a longtime friend, a folk-dancing in-

father's tallit, the prayer shawl that Falk always uses in this season. And he helped return Judaic observance to Astoria in the converted living room of a local family - gentiles, as it happened - who just wanted to help the cause.

"After this many years, it's a gift I've had to learn the liturgy and to make it come alive," Falk said. "It takes on a different immediacy to have it on my shoulders. You daven" - pray - "for yourself. You daven for your family. And you daven for the community. There's a lot in my life I don't take seriously enough. I take this very seriously." □